Nat'l Museum asks Christie's to return Luna painting

Story below Col. 2

Defense agencies going South; Marines first

By Lino Gilbert K. Parone and Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Defense agencies will be relocated from Manila to strife-torn Mindanao, starting with the headquarters of the Philippine Marines, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Speaking before 2,000 Catholic youth

DEFENSE/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

PEA executive defies Palace call to resign

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Volt Contreras

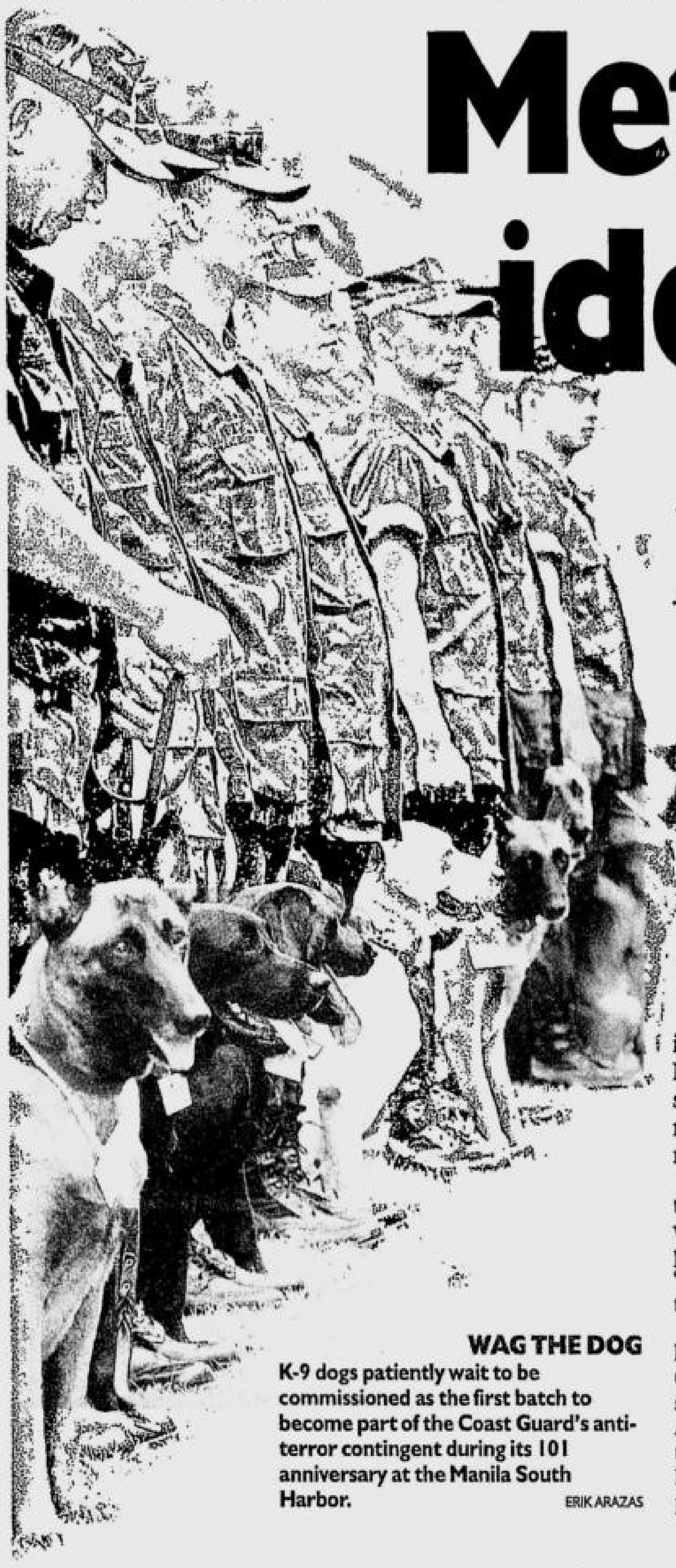
IT'S unfair to ask the directors of the Public Estates Authority to resign before an investigation of the alleged P600 million overprice of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard is concluded.

Former Samar Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon, one of the PEA directors who went on in

PEA/A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, October 24, 2002 ★ ~~58~~ 54 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 318 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Metro bus bomber identified, hunted



WAG THE DOG
K-9 dogs patiently wait to be commissioned as the first batch to become part of the Coast Guard's anti-terror contingent during its 101 anniversary at the Manila South Harbor.
ERIK ARAZAS

Bombings prelude to big bang, says PNP

By Fe Zamora
INQ7.net

A MANHUNT is on for Muklis Yunos and his accomplices, including at least two Indonesians, who are believed responsible for the series of bombings in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila, according to sources in the police and military intelligence community.

Nearly 60 percent of police intelligence personnel are now devoted to "finding" Yunos, a Filipino, who is believed to have "gone very deep underground," the sources said.

They identified Yunos as the head of the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Third Division of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), a unit of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which is holding peace talks with the government.

METRO/A18

ANTI-TERROR exercises are conducted by new augmentation forces like the Anti-Crime Task Force set up by the Armed Forces in order to keep the country safe and sound.
VAL HANDUMON

Zambo bombers 'virtually caught in the act' by police

By TJ Burgonio, *in Manila*
and Julie S. Alipala,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

"VIRTUALLY caught in the act of preparing for the next bombing."

This was how President Macapagal-Arroyo described the arrest of five suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists allegedly responsible for a recent wave of bombing attacks that killed 12 people, including an American soldier, in Zamboanga City.

The President paraded the handcuffed suspects, who were wearing yellow T-shirts and name tags, before television cameras at Villamor Air Base on Wednesday afternoon and later convened a meeting of the National Security Council to thwart further terrorist attacks.

The suspects, aged 18 to 27, were arrested in two raids on Tuesday in Zamboanga City while al-

ZAMBO/A18

Palace to issue order: No ID, no government service

By Dona Pazzibugan

NO ID. No government service.

Malacañang is using this line in reviving the controversial national identification system, which it wants to use against terrorism.

Instead of waiting for Congress to pass a law on a national ID system, President Macapagal-Arroyo will just issue an executive order requiring anyone who wants to transact with national government agencies to have a government-issued ID, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said yesterday.

"(The ID is) not obligatory but preferred. (But) it's mandatory for government transactions," Golez said.

He said the President would direct local government units to pass ordinances requiring a similar ID for transacting with local government agencies.

Ray Roquero, deputy secretary general of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, said several local governments were preparing ordinances for a local ID system in time for the league's national convention on Nov. 12-14 at the Manila Hotel.

Golez said the adoption of a national ID system was unanimously agreed upon by the National Security Council, which met yesterday for the second time this month.

The NSC first agreed to revive the national ID system at a meeting on Oct. 14 during which Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. reportedly broached the idea. Senate President Franklin Drilon supported Magsaysay's proposal.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said "any compulsory implementation of the national ID system would be unconstitutional because the Supreme Court had already decided that it would only take an

PALACE/A17

Senators hit intelligence agencies

By Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia Balana

THE INTELLIGENCE community came under heavy fire on Tuesday night from both administration and opposition senators for its lack of coordination and lack of accounting in the use of funds.

Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito added to the heat with a privilege speech delivered day after the three-hour, closed-door briefing of the Senate by the country's top intelligence officials.

Estrada zeroed in on Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who had alleged that her husband, deposed President Estrada, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson had stashed millions of dollars abroad.

Fourteen months after the Corpus exposé, Ejercito said, "not a single shred of evidence has been presented by Col. Corpus either in court or before the media to substantiate his

SENATORS/A18

HERE'S MUD IN YOUR EYE
Bomb scare notwithstanding, fiesta revelers dance through the streets of Barangay San Jose in Zamboanga City.
DENNIS SABANGAN

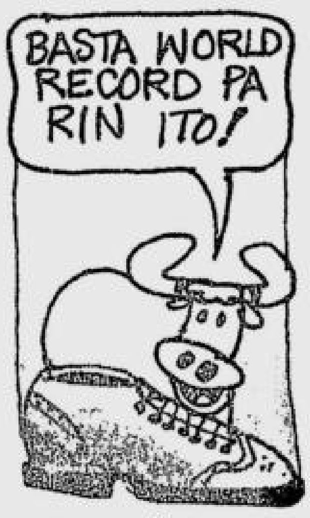
Detained Indon is top Jemaah Islamiah leader

By Michael Lim Ubac

INDONESIAN Agus Dwikarna, who is serving a jail term in the country for illegal possession of explosives, is a high-ranking member of the militant Islamic group Jemaah Islamiah, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez said the justice department acted correctly when it rejected pressure from Jakarta as well as from some Cabinet officials to free Dwikarna after his arrest in March. He has since been sentenced to 17 years in prison for illegal possession of explosives and

DETAINED/A18



BASTA WORLD RECORD PA RIN ITO!

Bombings shoo off Guinness Book folks

A SERIES of bomb blasts in the country appears to have shooed off Guinness Book of World Records representatives who were supposed to size up what Marikina shoemakers had hoped to be the world's largest footwear.

The Guinness representatives failed to turn up for the judging on Monday night of

BOMBINGS/A17

Return Luna painting, Nat'l Museum asks Christie's

By Juliet L. Javellana and Norman Bordadora

FINALLY, the National Museum has stepped into the picture. It has formally requested international auctioneer Christie's to return the 110-year-old Juan Luna painting to the country due to questions surrounding its ownership and sale.

The auction is set for Sunday.

As of noontime yesterday, officials of Christie's in Hong Kong were still deliberating on the matter, public relations manager Victoria Cheung told the INQUIRER.

"We are aware of the developments (as published) in your paper," Cheung said in a phone interview.

By 5 p.m., Christie's still had not come up with a decision.

"Not at the moment," Cheung said when asked if Christie's has canceled the auction of Luna, "Parisian Life," which is Lot 62 in its auction of Southeast Asian pictures.

Cheung also said she has no information to give on what action Christie's has taken on the request of the Philippine National Museum to return the painting.

Deputy Director Cecilio Salcedo, who is also chief of the Cultural Properties Division, said the National Museum has advised Christie's through its lawyer to "bring back the painting, have it registered and secure an export permit, steps that shall fulfill the requirements of the law."

There has been no response so far, Salcedo said.

A Bureau of Customs official

RETURN/A19

Second FrontPage

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SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/24/02

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'Mareng Winnie' a terrorist?

ECONOMIST Winnie Monsod is on the US State Department's list of high-risk individuals. That's why the US Embassy in Manila "temporarily" refused to renew her visa.

Monsod, known in media as "Mareng Winnie," said that while the embassy would not discuss the reason behind her inclusion in the list, she believes that her being an anti-Marcos activist must have something to do with the US Embassy's "temporary refusal."

"I know the Reagan administration kept a dossier on me since they were quite friendly with Marcos at that time," Monsod said.

She said the old intelligence reports on her alleged "high risk" activities must have found its way into the new database after 9-11.

"This is the reason why a centralized database about people like the proposed national ID system is not advisable," she said.

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said that it is their policy not to discuss individual visa cases publicly.

"We don't talk about individual visa cases. What (Monsod) said about the case should be the last word on this issue," Kelley said.

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Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Manila, Philippines

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

To give way to the clamor of *real property owners* in Manila, the Public Auction of real properties with delinquent tax payments scheduled for October 30, 2002 is hereby rescheduled to **DECEMBER 4, 2002** at 10:00 am, to be held at the Rodriguez Hall of the Manila City Hall on Villegas St., Ermita, Manila.

Kindly pay your real property taxes and avail of this final extension to avoid inclusion of your property in the said Public Auction.

October 24, 2002.

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
City Mayor

BI clears Dante Ang on Spaniard's arrest

By Blanche S. Rivera

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Andrea Domingo yesterday cleared the President's publicist, Dante Ang, in the controversy stemming from the arrest of Spanish lawyer Ramon Collado, president of the Philippine Retirees Authority Members Association Foundation.

Ang himself echoed this theme, saying in a rejoinder to INQUIRER's story on the controversy yesterday: "Collado is in jail for reasons known only to the Bureau of Immigration and other Philippine authorities. I have no idea what crime or crimes he may have committed."

Domingo said Ang had never instructed the Bureau of Immigration to apprehend Collado, whose group had accused Ang and BankWise officials of diverting some P16.8 million of Prama's peso and dollar deposits in the bank to Seed Capital Inc.

Domingo said she had not even heard of the furor until it was published in the papers.

Ang had recently bought into Bankwise and is now its president.

Domingo disclosed it was the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority that had sought Collado's arrest.

She further said that it was the PLRA that sought a certification from the Department of Labor and Employment that Collado did not have a permit to work here even in a supervisory position.

The PLRA had recommended the cancellation of Collado's special resident retiree's visa following several court battles with the Prama foundation. It also requested the BI, through Erlinda Lozada, to apprehend Collado.

"We had no choice but to accede to PLRA's request to cancel his visa because it was the agency that approved his visa in the first place," Domingo said.

In explaining his side, Ang said in his letter: "I met Collado briefly for lunch many months ago only as a courtesy to a depositor. I have forgotten about him until he brought up charges against BankWise and the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority."

Prama had filed a complaint with the National Bureau of Investigation against Ang and other BankWise officials for fraud, estafa and threats.

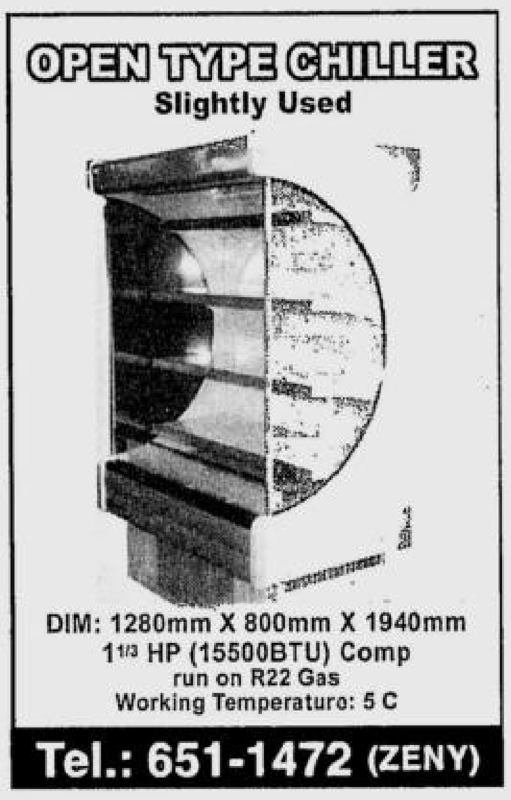
Ang continued: "The purported debiting of cash advances alleged by Collado, including alleged plane tickets, against Prama's accounts, is not true. Said alleged debits are not recorded in the books of BankWise.

"Bank records would show that it was Ms (Rica) Mipana, Prama finance officer, who wrote BankWise on July 17 asking the bank to credit his deposit in favor of Seed Capital. Mr. Collado duly noted the letter.

"Another letter on Aug. 12, again signed by Ms Mipana, was sent to the bank asking that a total of P2 million from his placement with Seed Capital be withdrawn.

"It is true that he (Collado) wrote BankWise advising us to terminate his placement with the bank. But even if we wanted to, we could not terminate his placement for the simple reason that the same had been credited to Seed Capital upon Collado's written instruction to the bank. That being the case, only Seed Capital can terminate the placement, not Collado."

Ang added: "It is true that I have asked Commissioner Domingo to defer the scheduled deportation of Collado. We want him to substantiate his charges. Fairness requires that the full details of his allegations be aired so we could respond fully to his lies.



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BSP to probe Ang's bank on foreign retirees' funds

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The central bank said it would also determine the extent of Dante Ang's participation in the mid-sized thrift bank.

"We will certainly look into the allegations of the Prama Foundation. We would also check Dante Ang's involvement in the bank because it is not clear whether he bought directly into BankWise or into Seed Capital," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Buenaventura said BankWise told the Monetary Board Ang had no direct ownership in the bank.

But Prama has asked whether Buenaventura could maintain his objectivity given his position as member of the Board of Trustees of the state-owned Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority.

Prama president Ramon Collado had accused some officers of PLRA of orchestrating, together with BankWise officials, the alleged diversion of Prama deposits.

Aside from Buenaventura, the other PLRA Board of Trustees are Trade Secretary and Monetary Board member Mar Roxas II and Bureau of Immigration and Deportation Commissioner Andrea Domingo.

PLRA is now headed by Antonio Leviste, husband of Senator Loren Legarda.

Prama Foundation finance and administrative manager Rica Mipana told the INQUIRER that Collado and Prama placed money into Seed Capital on the agreement that the placement would only be for one year. She said neither Collado nor Prama was informed that only Seed Capital could terminate such an arrangement. (See related story on this page.)

"In the first place, what they gave us as proof of the placement was a BankWise official receipt. So we believed that we were placing funds in a deposit instrument of the bank and not to a locked-in instrument like Seed Capital," said Mipana.

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Guevara invited Ang to raise 20 percent of the P250 million that Seed Capital needed to acquire 60 percent of BankWise from Wise Capital Inc.

Tancangco off the hook, says she's glad it's over

By Blanche S. Rivera

"I'M glad it's over."

Commission on Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco yesterday said the dismissal of the impeachment complaint against her by the House committee on justice proved that the pursuit "of clean and honest elections is not a monopoly of one individual or group."

"As major stakeholders in elections, our lawmakers (were) in the best position to pass judgment on the . . . substance of the impeachment complaint," Tancangco said in a statement.

But the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), which spearheaded the oust-Tancangco campaign, said it was hopeful that the plenary would be more "enlightened."

The justice committee is expected to report the referendum result to the plenary next month, after Congress returns from a two-week break. The House will then vote as a body, whether to affirm or overturn the committee's decision.

"There's been a cover-up," said Namfrel executive director Telibert Laoc in a phone interview. "We want an investigation."

The complaint against Tancangco stemmed from several "violations," foremost of which was her alleged railroading of the P6-billion Voters Registration and Identification System project, which was recently nullified by the Supreme Court.

Last Oct. 9, the justice committee members decided on a referendum to decide the merit of the complaint after failing to muster a quorum. The vote was held last week, but the result was announced only yesterday: 36 members and ex-oficio members voted against the complaint for lack of substance, and 16 voted in favor. Four abstained.

The result was to have been announced on Oct. 16, but Libanan told the INQUIRER that voting began only last Oct. 14.

Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella assailed the committee for allowing the voting to actually take two weeks when, he said, the original period agreed upon was only one week. "You know (that) one week (makes a lot of) difference in Congress," he said.

Tancangco, also in a phone interview, said she trusted the committee could justify its decision. She said the "personal attacks and black propaganda" against her should now stop. "It's time to buckle down to work." *With Christine O. Avendano*

Erap wants one favor from FPJ

JAILED ex-president Joseph Estrada yesterday admitted he had a personal motive for actively pushing his celebrity friend Fernando Poe Jr. into the 2004 presidential race.

"Assuming FPJ will (win), I will ask him only one favor: give me a fair trial," Estrada told reporters yesterday.

The ex-president, 65, thus indicated a desire to prolong his Sandiganbayan plunder trial until a "friendlier" administration is in place.

But Estrada said Poe, whom he described as "more popular than me," had not actually decided to enter politics.

Also, Estrada said, his final choice for 2004 would really depend on which opposition candidate would emerge the strongest in pre-election surveys.

He spoke of "an agreement" with the opposition: "Whoever will top the surveys, we will unite behind him—whether it's FPJ, Ed Angara or Ping Lacson." *Volt Contreras*

Second FRONTPAGE

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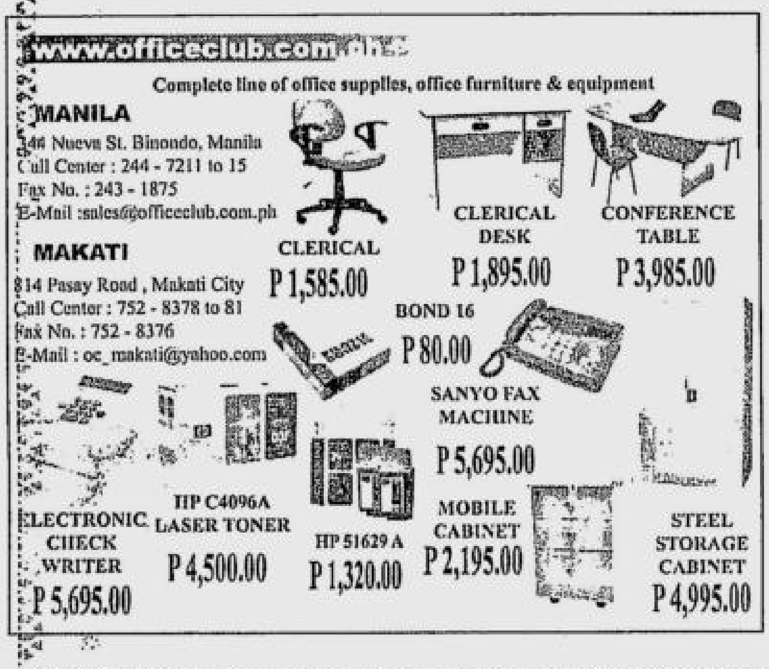
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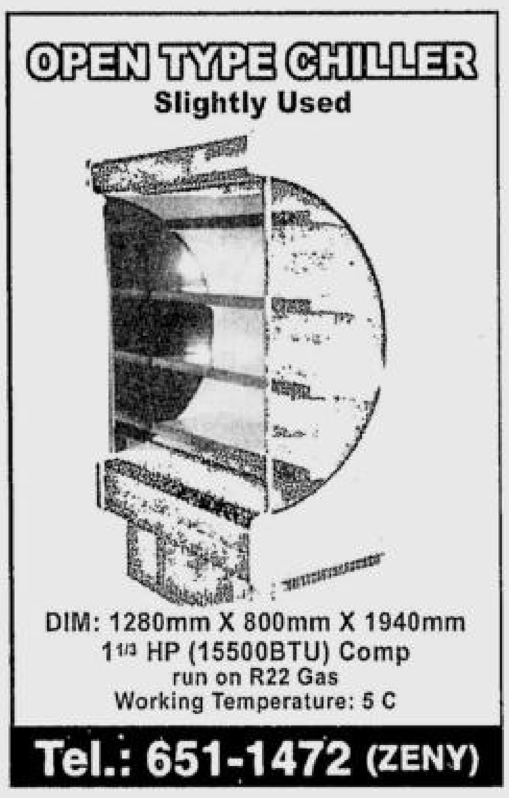

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Manila, Philippines

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

To give way to the clamor of *real property owners* in Manila, the Public Auction of real properties with delinquent tax payments scheduled for October 30, 2002 is hereby rescheduled to **DECEMBER 4, 2002** at 10:00 am, to be held at the Rodriguez Hall of the Manila City Hall on Villegas St., Ermita, Manila.

Kindly pay your real property taxes and avail of this final extension to avoid inclusion of your property in the said Public Auction.

October 24, 2002.

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
City Mayor

Tancangco off the hook, says she's glad it's over

By Blanche S. Rivera

"I'M glad it's over."

Commission on Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco yesterday said the dismissal of the impeachment complaint against her by the House committee on justice proved that the pursuit "of clean and honest elections is not a monopoly of one individual or group."

"As major stakeholders in elections, our lawmakers (were) in the best position to pass judgment on the . . . substance of the impeachment complaint," Tancangco said in a statement.

But the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), which spearheaded the oust-Tancangco campaign, said it was hopeful that the plenary would be more "enlightened."

The justice committee is expected to report the referendum result to the plenary next month, after Congress returns from a two-week break. The House will then vote as a body, whether to affirm or overturn the committee's decision.

"There's been a cover-up," said Namfrel executive director Telibert Laoc in a phone interview. "We want an investigation."

The complaint against Tancangco stemmed from several "violations," foremost of which was her alleged railroading of the P6-billion Voters Registration and Identification System project, which was recently nullified by the Supreme Court.

Last Oct. 9, the justice committee members decided on a referendum to decide the merit of the complaint after failing to muster a quorum. The vote was held last week, but the result was announced only yesterday: 36 members and ex-oficio members voted against the complaint for lack of substance, and 16 voted in favor. Four abstained.

The result was to have been announced on Oct. 16, but Libanan told the INQUIRER that voting began only last Oct. 14.

Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella assailed the committee for allowing the voting to actually take two weeks when, he said, the original period agreed upon was only one week. "You know (that) one week (makes a lot of) difference in Congress," he said.

Tancangco, also in a phone interview, said she trusted the committee could justify its decision. She said the "personal attacks and black propaganda" against her should now stop. "It's time to buckle down to work." *With Christine O. Avendano*

Erap wants one favor from FPJ

JAILED ex-president Joseph Estrada yesterday admitted he had a personal motive for actively pushing his celebrity friend Fernando Poe Jr. into the 2004 presidential race.

"Assuming FPJ will (win), I will ask him only one favor: give me a fair trial," Estrada told reporters yesterday.

The ex-president, 65, thus indicated a desire to prolong his Sandiganbayan plunder trial until a "friendlier" administration is in place.

But Estrada said Poe, whom he described as "more popular than me," had not actually decided to enter politics.

Also, Estrada said, his final choice for 2004 would really depend on which opposition candidate would emerge the strongest in pre-election surveys.

He spoke of "an agreement" with the opposition: "Whoever will top the surveys, we will unite behind him—whether it's FPJ, Ed Angara or Ping Lacson." *Volt Contreras*

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Why is Joker in absentee vote bicam?

By Rocky Nazareno

HE voted against the absentee voting bill, but why is Sen. Joker Arroyo in the Senate panel which will defend the Senate version of the bill in the bicameral conference commitee?

"It looks like there's more than meets the eye," commented opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who asked if "it is valid for Arroyo to be a member of the bicameral conference committee representing the majority when he voted no to the measure."

Senate majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste defended the inclusion of Arroyo in the Senate panel, saying that there is "no explicit rule prohibiting a member of the Senate who objected to a bill to... participate in the bicameral conference committee." Arroyo was the only senator who voted aainst the bill.

But Pimentel insisted that "while there is no explicit rule, there is a rule of common sense that should invest the actuations of this Chamber."

"How can anybody who voted against a measure represent the majority and defend the actuations of the majority?" Pimentel maintained.

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who had manifested that Arroyo be included in the Senate panel, justified Arroyo's inclusion because he is "also a member of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms."

"That would perhaps explain his interest in this particular measure, notwithstanding the fact that he voted against this measure," Pangilinan said.

But Pimentel refused to budge.

"If that is the stand of the majority, then we will start a full-scale debate on that issue," he challenged Pangilinan.

Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier moved in to defuse the growing tension and declared a one-minute suspension.

Upon resumption of the session, Pangilinan backed down and withdrew his motion to include Arroyo in the Senate panel for the bicameral conference committee on the Absentee Voting law.

Reacting to the exchange of words between Pimentel and Pangilinan, Arroyo could only give out a wry smile and say: "What is good for Pimentel is not good for the others. What is sauce for the ganders is not sauce for the goose."

Senate passes dual citizenship bill, SPAV

By Rocky Nazareno

THE SENATE yesterday passed on third and final reading the bill granting Dual Citizenship and the Special Asset Management Companies Act (formerly SPAV) opening the country to the world, both in re-adopting Filipinos who have lost their citizenship and inviting fresh flow of foreign investments.

With only opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon abstaining, the Senate approved Senate Bill 2130 that is expected to benefit the more than 1.7 million naturalized Filipinos in the United States alone.

"Once a Pinoy, always a proud Pinoy," declared principal author Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Under the new law, Filipinos who have already acquired foreign citizenship need only to present evidence that his or her father or mother is Filipino to be able to acquire dual citizenship.

SB 2130 amended Commonwealth Act No. 63 of 1936 which provided that a pledge of allegiance to another country would mean that the Filipino automatically loses his or her Filipino citizenship.

The new law provides that natural-born Filipinos who have become foreign citizens shall retain their Philippine citizenship unless they freely renounce under oath.

"We are glad to have fulfilled the aspiration of many of our countrymen who would have wanted to come back to our country and retire here," Drilon said.

The new SAMC law would allow more than $3 billion in foreign investments to pour into the country and inject life to the P600 billion in non-performing assets (NPAs) of the banking industry.

On a vote of 16-2, the Senate approved Senate Bill 2116, formerly known as the Special Purpose Assets Vehicle (SPAV) bill.

In hailing the passage of the first "landmark economic measure" of the Senate, SB 2116 principal author Sen. Ralph Recto said the SAMC law "will provide equal incentives and equal application of the law to the borrowers, financial institutions (FI) and the SAMCs."

Recto underscored that with the adoption of the SAMC law, banks would now be able to dispose and even realize some profit from their NPAs which comprise 18 percent of the total assets of the banking industry amounting to P600 billion.

The SAMC law provides incentives in the form of exempting the SAMC, FI and borrower from paying taxes in SAMC transactions including capital gains, value-added and documentary stamp taxes.

The new law also gives a 50 percent discount on the fees and charges on SAMC transactions like those charged by the Land Registration Authority, docket fees and all other registration fees.

Hidalgo, 85

LOURDES Hidalgo succumbed to post-stroke complications on Sunday at the Sto. Niño de San Antonio Hospital.

She was 85.

The body lies at Chapel C1 La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on Oct. 25 at Eternal Gardens NLEX, Baesa, Caloocan City at 2 p.m. after the 1 p.m. Mass.

She is survived by her children Gloria, Paulino Jr., Flavio, Pio, Arturo, Aurora, Carlos and Clara; daughters-in-law and a son-in-law; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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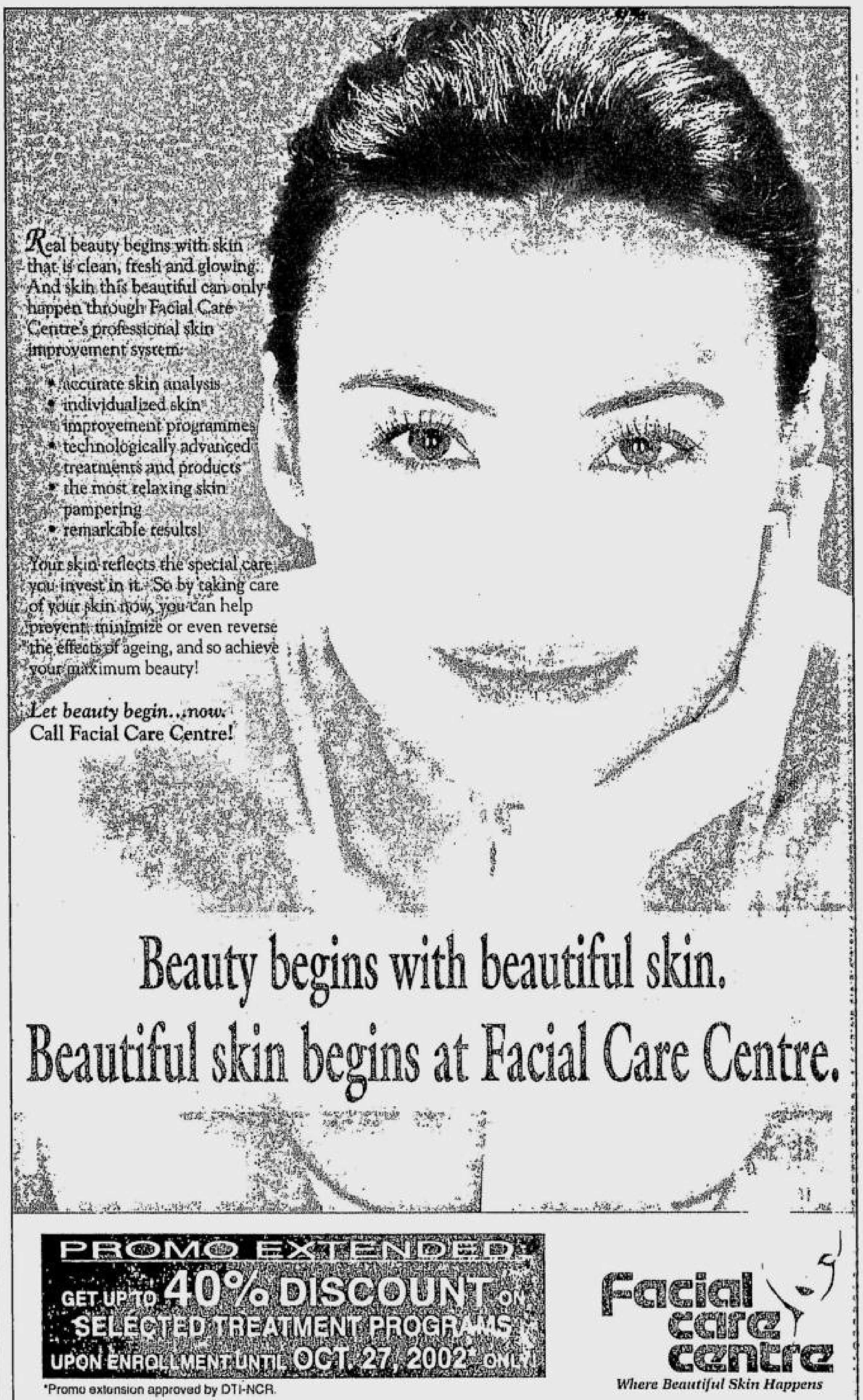
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Will you give up your name for canned tuna?

By Gil Cabacungan

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has minced no words in telling Spain that historical relationship between the two countries would be put under serious strain should the former colonizer refuse to give Philippine canned tuna exports wider access to Europe.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said: "I told my counterpart in Spain, 'You really have to look at this very seriously because Filipinos will not accept the fact that Spain will not support the Philippines. I'm sure you have your reasons but this will not be accepted.' If they forsake us, we might be forced to change all our Spanish names."

Aquino said he talked with trade ministers from Spain and the rest of European Union members during the Asean European Ministers meeting to lobby for their support in giving Philippine canned tuna exports similar perks to those granted to competing products from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP).

An EU trade accord granted duty free access to imports from ACP countries including canned tuna which would put at a disadvantage canned tuna imports from the Philippines and Thailand that are slapped 24 percent. Tuna exports contribute between $100 million and $200 million to the Philippine economy annually.

Aquino stressed that EU granted the trade perks to ACP largely because these were former European colonies. Since the Philippines was a colony of Spain for three centuries, Aquino said the Philippines should also be eligible for these perks.

Ad execs hit noontime 'freak shows'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SHOCKED silence filled the room.

McCann Erickson, the country's largest ad agency had just finished presenting to top advertisers, show producers and media strategists an analysis of the current most popular noontime television shows.

Skimpily clad women gyrating to loud music, TV hosts' adlibs filled with sexual innuendos, and games that subjected contestants to ridicule, had obviously grossed out the select group.

McCann chair Emily Abrera proceeded with the discussion at hand, "Pulse of the Media: A Quantitative Analysis of MTB (Magandang Tanghali Bayan, ABS-CBN) and Eat Bulaga (GMA-7)."

The message was clear: institute immediate reforms and improve the contents of the shows, which are viewed by some three million people daily, a quarter of them children. Or else the agency, which handles about P3 billion worth of advertising money annually, would initiate quick and concerted ad pullouts.

That was two weeks ago.

Early this week, Venus R. Navalta, managing director of Universal McCann—the agency's media placement arm—said "slight" improvements had since been noted in the programs.

"Dancers have more body cover now and are gyrating less," Navalta said, and contestants in certain games were being treated better.

She said the agency had a responsibility to monitor the shows "constantly," since it routinely advised clients on ad placements. Because of the producers' willingness—and effort—to improve, she said, McCann had not yet proceeded with its ad pull-out drive.

McCann executives said the analysis/presentation, during which samplings of Eat Bulaga and MTB were reviewed, had been made in response to growing public concern about distasteful material in the two shows.

Members of the review group found "visual materials and language with mature themes" in both programs.

Cesar Munar of Coca-Cola Export Corp. said, "Kids are watching. We have to draw the line . . . and start imparting good values."

Abrera lamented "scenes that you associate with men's clubs—live shows practically."

Other McCann officials felt the rival networks were simply trying to "outgross" one another.

Program clips viewed included that of an Eat Bulaga game that was recently discontinued. A contestant was shown eating raw liver and a block of raw tuna fish. Another clip showed some female show hosts eating a longish piece of meat which the other hosts insinuated was an animal's sex organ.

"Mamaya pakakain ko sa inyo 'to (I will let you eat this one later)," said host Vic Sotto in yet another clip, addressing the men in the audience and referring to a female dancer.

"The worst assault is the violence (that these things inflict on) our spirit . . . to make us feel there's no way that we might make some money without demeaning ourselves," Abrera stressed.

Navalta added, "For P5,000 you risk your life (on nationwide TV)? It is almost like a freak show."

THE FOLLOWING are the names of the 1073 successful examinees in the recently concluded PMA Entrance Examinations conducted on September 22, 2002 in 33 various exam centers nationwide. They will be formally informed by letter of the date of reporting to the AFP Medical Center for Medical Examinations. For more information, visit our website at www.pma.ph or call (02) 911-1118 PMA Liaison Office

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6. ABLANG ARI BEN LARIDA
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11. ABUTAZIL SOURAB JAINOR SANTOS
12. ABUY ALEXIS RAMBAUD
13. ACEBEDO RONNIE BERNABE
14. ACHANZAR JACKSON ADDUCUL CARIG
15. ACHANZAR CHRISTY ISIS ASENETA
16. ACHURRA ARIEL BRYAN BUNCIO
17. ACIO JOHN PAUL PALACPAC
18. ACOSTA MA KATRINA CALUGAY
19. ACTUB JEAZZINE INGRET ESQUIERDO
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66. AQUINO CYRUS TAMONDONG
67. AQUINO MARVIN VILORIA
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69. AQUINO JOSS DUNROSS DE MESA
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189. BRIÑAS NAPOLEON NIÑO IV AGUMBAY
190. BUA-AY GIL OCDEN
191. BUANZI OLIVIA WANAS
192. BUCALEN JOEY DOMATOG
193. BUENAFE EDDIE JR MENDELIBAR
194. BUENAVISTA JOSE VICENTE MENDOZA
195. BUENDIA JOEL L
196. BUENO AGERICO JR AGUSTIN
197. BUGASTO ALBERTO JR LAUREL
198. BUGNOSEN PERCIVAL GAWE
199. BUGNOSEN VICENTE GAWE
200. BULLAN LAMBERTO JR ESTIGOY
201. BULONG LIEZLE PULUPUL
202. BUNAGAN ENGELBERT TAMAYAO
203. BUNTALES JOHN PAUL REYES
204. BURCE RYAN EDMUND BONEO
205. BUSGANO FREDEWRICK CRUZ
206. BUSTILLO DOLORITHY MANGIGO
207. CAABUCAYAN DALE KEVIN RECIÑA
208. CABADING JACOB RUIZ VALENTIN
209. CABAEL ALFIE TAÑO
210. CABAGNOT THELSON TIJAREG MARALIT
211. CABAGUE JONINETH BOHOLST
212. CABALLERO VAY LUMIGUIO
213. CABANILLA WREXTON DINAMPO
214. CABATIC CHRIS ISRAEL LIGSAY
215. CABAUATAN ANDROUS ROGEL CHOSAS
216. CABILES NORIEL LURICAN
217. CABOTEJA RAFFY LOZADA
218. CABRERA ANDRE AUNZO
219. CABRERA MURIEL ACABAL
220. CABREROS KALVIN SAN GABRIEL
221. CABUS MARK WYN GANDELA
222. CACHERO LEONEL LOMBOY
223. CAFUGAUAN JOHN THOMAS IRINGAN
224. CALANGI JERRYMIE BACAY AGUSTIN
225. CALIBUSO KATHY BOCO
226. CALIGUIRAN CHRISTIAN RIO
227. CALIGUIRAN JEFFERSON CAJULAO
228. CALILAO MAC JOEL CRISTOBAL
229. CALLANGAN GERRY BACUD
230. CALO MARK ALVIN ABOC
231. CALUB ZANDER BELINGON
232. CALUGAY DEXTER MALING
233. CALULOT ROY AUGUSTUS FRAGATA
234. CALUNGSOD EDMUND GAMBALAN
235. CALUNGSOD RYAN DE CATALINA
236. CALUSOR MARIA ROSARIO SERDIÑO
237. ANTHONY JUSTINIANI
238. CAMELON CHARLIE ANTHONY JUSTINIANI
239. CAMHIT ROLAND BINOMNGA
240. CAMITAN ROLAN QUIMIO
241. CAMORA CARL DINALO
242. CAMPO GIOVANNI GADA
243. CANAO WARLY DINULONG
244. CANES MAURICIE JAY JACOSALEM
245. CAÑETE REYNALDO JR BARCELONA
246. CANICULA LANDRADE JR CRUZ
247. CAÑON ZABELLE LAWAN
248. CANOY JESTER CABILIS
249. CAOILE JOSEPH MICHAEL MAGLINES
250. CAPALUNGAN JOHN SID TELAN
251. CAPISTRANO DAKILA FLORENDO
252. CAPUYAN DANIEL TEODORICO CUBILLAN
253. CARBONEL JORDAN LOMBCIO
254. CARBONELL PAOLO GERARD VILLAR
255. CARIÑO DARRYL DACUMOS
256. CARIÑO GIAN CARLO CASTRO
257. CARLONA FERNANDO CERVANTES
258. CARLOS ZANDRO LUIS SAMPANG
259. CARMONA MARK RIKKO SUAZO
260. CARNASO REYNAN LASPRILLA
261. CARDOSO MICHAEL DONALD CASTILLON
262. CASACLANG MARK BRANDON MEJIA
263. CASTAÑEDA JOHN EARL LOPEZ
264. CASTILLANO EUGENE PALMARES
265. CASTILLO CYRUS ANGELO ALON
266. CASTILLO ERNESTO JR DANTES
267. CASTILLO LANCE CIPRIANI KUINISALA
268. CASTILLON MARK VERGEL GEVERO
269. CASTRO SHARON AGPALZA EVELAND
270. CASTRO ANGHEL MARIE DAVID
271. CASUGA RODOLFO JR ANDRADA
272. CATALAN CARLO LAZARTE
273. CATAMCO JESSON LACABA
274. CATAPANG NIÑO ACORDA
275. CATOLOS MARIA MYCA ELA TOLENTINO
276. CAYTON DAVID MANGONON
277. CEBEDO EARL JUMAWID
278. CEBRIAN METHUSAEL BROWN
279. CENAL CARLOS FENTON
280. CHAKAS WILLIAM JR ALIWENGWENG
281. CHAN NORIEL COBRADOR
282. CHOKOWEN NOEL AMKIKID
283. CHUA MICHAEL JERICO OCOMA
284. CIELO JENUDINE LORENZO
285. CODO-OG LEA DAGUYEN
286. COLANGAO DANTE ULAO
287. COLLADO MICHAEL MAGBANUA
288. COLUMNA JEFFERSON LAGARE
289. COMIA RONNIL JAMOLIN
290. COMPE GRACIANO CAERLANG
291. CONAG FRANCISCO ROJAS
292. CONSEJA JESUS JR VALDERAMA
293. CONSTANTINO JAYROLD EBREO
294. CORDERO ILUMINADO TAN
295. CORDERO ARNIE RAMOS
296. CORLETO RICALYN PAULA LOPEZ
297. CORMINAL CHARLES MORALES
298. CORPUZ JENNELYN DELOS SANTOS
299. CORPUZ ARIEL JOSE
300. CORREGIDOR JEFFREY BATULA
301. CORTEZ DOFRED FRIAS
302. CORTEZ ALDWIN GALVAN
303. CRUZ ROBBI IRVIN SAN JUAN
304. CRUZ MICHAEL JOHN ESPIRIDION
305. CRUZ ABIGAIL MARCELO
306. CRUZ EIDHERF SAN PEDRO
307. CUANAN EDGARD BUCO
308. CUARESMA ALEX CUNANAN
309. CUASAY SANDINO ABEJAR
310. CUAYZON JONAR VELASCO
311. CUENTA ERIC SANTOS
312. CUETO CONRAD JOSEPH VENADAS
313. CUETO CONRAD JONATHAN VENADAS
314. CUÑANO PAUL MICHAEL JOSE
315. CINTAPAY CARLO TALOSIG
316. CUPAHAN JUNIE UDCHON
317. CUSTODIO RIZAL VIC CAMINADE
318. CUTAMORA MATHAK RAF SENDIONG
319. CUTARAN LEONUEL ABAD
320. DAGUIO RODEL BUENAFLOR
321. DALOPE TEDDY SORIANO
322. DAMIAN FRANCIS GAYM
323. DAOAL EULER COMEYA
324. DAPIAWEN AMOR LUTO
325. DARAYAN ABEN ESMULA
326. DARIAGAN SUNSHINE ROLDES
327. DATOR NOEL POMINTEL
328. DATUL MARIO AGGABAO
329. DAVID KYRENE DIZON
330. DAVID ROMMEL MALACAY
331. DAYAO REINHART CLIVE JOMDOS
332. DE ANAS XERXIS REDON QUIDATO
333. DE CASTRO SYNE BELTRAN
334. DE GUZMAN WHILFRED PASCUA
335. DE GUZMAN RHODORA MONTEZOR
336. DE GUZMAN CHRISTOPHER CARO
337. DE JESUS MARCELINO LOGUES
338. DE LEON FRANCIS GILBERT DE LEON
339. DE VERA VERA LEON DE GUZMAN
340. DE VERA SHYNNO MICHAEL MABASIGAN
341. DECENA IRENE TRYL JAMILI
342. DEFELES DOUGLAS SALIENTE
343. DEL MONTE JIAN CARLO ORDUÑA
344. DEL ROSARIO EDGAR PEREZ
345. DELA CRUZ MICHAEL RYAN BACARON
346. DELA CRUZ JESS CALDONA
347. DELA CRUZ [illegible] CALIBOSO
348. DELA CUADRA ERNEST FRAGANTE
349. DELA CUESTA JOEMAR BALLAD
350. DELADA HAZEL LLOPEZ
351. DELOS REYES GLENN ALCARAN
352. DELOS REYES MARK JOEL JOSEPH
353. DEMOTICA JOVEN SELA - MSU IIT-ILIGAN CITY
354. DEOLAZO JAN-ALAIN HILARIO
355. DEPALUBOS LEMUEL IMPERIO
356. DERAMAS VINCENT EVAN SALUBON
357. DERRAMAS JACK LLOYD SALOMA
358. DESCUA IAN NATHANIEL PAUL [illegible]
359. DESQUITADO JUALMAR ONDOY
360. DESTREZA ROCKY DANLOG
361. DEYSOLONG AELRED JR MANSILLA
362. DIAZ JOSE MARI FRANCISCO
363. DIAZ ROSE CINTHY ANN FRANCISCO
364. DIAZ MARIO GANGE
365. DICIANO DOMINGO JR FERRER
366. DIDA JANMICHAEL CESAR LARA
367. DIGA PETER KING SIMON
368. DIMATATAC RAUL GABRIEL II SUAREZ
369. DIN MARLON TEJEROS
370. DINCOG DEXTER BANTED
371. DINGLASAN JAMES JR BAY BAUAN HIGH SCHOOL
372. DIO JOSE MARIA ERVIN DAANOY
373. DIONELA NORMAN PADERNA
374. DIOSO LOUI REVILLA
375. DIZON AIDA SIBAL
376. DOLERO CHERISH LOUISE DELOS REYES
377. DOLINO PAUL MICHAEL BAUTISTA
378. DOLIPAS JASON SEBIO
379. DOMENDEN CATHERINE AGUTING
380. DOMINGO DENNIS CLARC [illegible]
381. DOMINGO PEDRO DALUNGAN
382. DOMINGO NICEL SUNGA
383. DOMINGO MARK TYRONE PADILLA
384. DOMINGO DHEXE IAN FRANCISCO
385. DOMINGO RYAN JAY BALLESIL
386. DONIEGO BEN ALEPH JALOS
387. DONOSO EDSON JUDE HISOLER
388. DONQUE JERVEN PAUNGILAN
389. DORADO LEOPHARD LAURE
390. DORIA JONARD MANUEL
391. DRIZ EMMANUEL RAMOS
392. DUAZO RENO ANQUILO
393. DUENAS BRIAN PICCIO
394. DUGLIANG JIMMY JR DOMPAO
395. DULAY ALEXANDER BARANDINO
396. DULTRA ANALIE NAGA
397. DUMAGUIN DONNA MARIE HONRALES
398. DUMAGUING HAYDEN DE CAMPO
399. DUMAMANG CHEVY REGINA [illegible]
400. DUMLAO CHRISTOPHER AGDEPPA
401. DURAN MICHAEL ERWIN CASTILLO
402. DURIA JEFFREY AQUINO
403. DUROTAN VIRGILIO JR AGNES
404. DUSARAN ANACLETO JR SAJO
405. EBALOBO BARTOLOME GREGORIO
406. ECLARINO ROSELINE CAMACHO
407. ELE CHARLES ERNEST AGNA
408. ELEDA MARGARET ALCIFRA
409. ELLAGA MARY JOY GLORIA
410. ELLO JOSE LAURO ANTON MENDOZA
411. EMETERIO HONORIO NULI GUMAPELIX
412. ENANO CARLSON CASTILLO
413. ENDAYA JUNE LLANES
414. ENRIQUEZ ARNOLD SANTOS
415. ENTERINA STANLEY JR JAVIER
416. ERCILLA ERWIN CZAR CRUZ
417. ESCALERA REY EXEQUIEL COLUMNA
418. ESCANO MARK ANTHONY SISON
419. ESCOTE EDSIL GIRAY
420. ESICO RORY PIZARRO
421. ESILEN JEREMY BESAY
422. ESMEJARDA JOEL GUERNALDO
423. ESPINELI JAYPEE TEJIDOR
424. ESPINOLA ANTHONY ALBERT DIAZ
425. ESPIRITU OLIVIA DE GUZMAN
426. ESTACIO NADINE CHRISTY DEQUIÑA
427. ESTOESTA FRANCIS JOHN DATAN
428. ESTORCO NABURANIZZAR ANDALIS
429. ESTRADA JOHN JEMAR MACASPAC
430. ESTRADA MICHAEL JOHN VELASCO
431. EVANGELISTA JOHN ANDRE MEDINA
432. FABIAN KING LOPEZ
433. FAGELA RONALDO RETUTA
434. FALLAR JONALD NOBELFRANCIA
435. FARAL RIZZA LIZZA PESTIJO
436. FARIÑAS REY CARLOS
437. FELICIANO MARIO MORHTARIAN
438. FELIZARTE WYANE MADRAZO
439. FERNANDEZ MAYNARD DIGAMON
440. FERNANDEZ GLIN MAR MIGUE
441. FILL BRYAN ANDAYA
442. FLOJO MEDIAH PERLE CLEMENTE
443. FLORENDO MARK EDWARD YUMUL
444. FLORES EDWIN FRIAS
445. FLORES ADRIAN KENNETH TIGUELO
446. FLORES RICHARD BRENT CONDE
447. FLORESCA FERDINAND JR MIRA
448. FRANCISCO JAN HEINRICH MONTILLA
449. FRANCISCO JONATHAN CUELLO
450. FRANCO NEPOMUCENO II TUZON
451. FRIAS MICHAEL ANDREW QUIROGA
452. FRIAS DONALD SANTOS
453. FRUTO PAUL HENRY GALIDO
454. FRUTO JAN VIRGIL GALIDO
455. FUENTES ERWIN ROMMEL CHIONG
456. FULGAR JEYSON PUTCH
457. FURIGAY MACARIO A
458. FUTALAN MARK PATRICK SANCHEZ
459. GABERTAN MHAR GRANFIL
460. GABOR JEFFREY LEGASPI
461. GADIL RITCHIE MAPNO
462. GAERLAN MICHAEL LIMOS
463. GAFFUD JENNIFER VILLANUEVA
464. GALANG ARNOLD BUSTOS
465. GALANG JOSE CARLO ALVIAR
466. GALANZA GIAN CARLO AGGARI
467. GALARPE ROXAN ABAD
468. GALARRETTA ROUSSEL BONGCO
469. GALBIZO R-JAY ABUYEN
470. GALERA GERRY BINGAYAN
471. GALIMPIN JULIUS MICHAEL ESTOQUE
472. GALLEGO JOSEPH VICTOR PANES
473. GALLEGOS RALPH KRISTOFFER BALMADAN
474. GAMIT JEFFREY JAMES VALDEZ
475. GAMMAD FREDERICK ENGEL KWAN
476. GAMMAD MARK DAVIES GUITTERING
477. GAMMAD BELLIE ANGELA KWAN
478. GANASAN PAUL DENVER BODO
479. GANCAYCO JASON ANGUE
480. GANILO HARRVETTE DAMPAG
481. GARCIA MICHAEL JOHN REMIGIO
482. GARCIA JOEL LAYUGAN
483. GARCIA NAVAL CORONADO
484. GARCIA MICHAEL JENSEN MANANGAN
485. GARCIA ALEXANDER IMPERIAL
486. GARCIA PAULINE PATRICIA RAMA
487. GARCIA JUAN PAOLO ALIX
488. GARNADO JOHN LERY BAUTISTA
489. GASPAR RUBEN WALANG
490. GAYOSO RANELO MORLASA
491. GELI ROMMEL MOJICA
492. GENITA ESTELLA LABASTIDA
493. GENUINO VAN JONATHAN DEL ROSARIO
494. GERONIMO AROLD ABANG
495. GIMENA MARK ANTHONY ROMANO
496. GOBWAY SEAN NABEJET
497. GOBWAY KENNY NEBEJET
498. GOMEZ ANGELO JOSE TAMONDONG
499. GOMEZ JULIUS CASTOR
500. GONGORA LEYNARD DEL VALLE
501. GONZALES NOMER ABELLAR
502. GONZALES RAFAEL LOUIS GABRIEL
503. GONZALES NILVER CALISAS
504. GONZALES DIANA CLARO
505. GONZALES MAULE LUIS JR SERA
506. GOTOC JOSEPH MACASIEB
507. GOZANES ERWIN CADORNA CENTRAL
508. GREGORIO MARIA LOURDES GERANGUE
509. GREGORIO JASPER IAN DEMON
510. GUANZON RYAN GUIKAN
511. GUCE CONRADO JR A
512. GUCOR CECILIA JUSTOL
513. GUEVARRA JOHN ARMAND MERCADO
514. GUILLERGAN MARC MARION ABANGAN
515. GUILLERMO MARIA LYNETTE MORITO
516. GUINGAYAN JEOCKER NGIPPOL
517. GUIQUING JEFFREY VILLAR
518. GUITERING FERNANDO AGANA
519. GUITERING ANTONIO SALES
520. GUMAPAC ARGEE BAGAY
521. GUNIO ANGELA JOSE
522. GUTIERREZ NELSON CALAUNAN
523. HABABAG EDZEL BUENDIA
524. HABER ALPASER SALIM
525. HABUNAL JULIUS MONTEJO
526. HACLA RODEL PERALTA
527. HATAIBRUL SARAH DURIA
528. HECOLE RECHELLE JOY BITOON
529. HERVAS GARY JAMES PAMA
530. HIBEK ROMULO LUCAS
531. HICBAN RYAN ROBES
532. HICBAN ARCHIE ROBES
533. HIDALGO ISMAEL DINGLASA
534. HIERCO ANTHONY IAN ROMA
535. HOBAYAN VALENTINA A. BALIAT
536. HUBO BOB JOHN CARLO ARIOLA
537. IBAÑEZ GIAN CARLO FABRO
538. IBARRA EDUARDO BIRON
539. IBARRA EDGARDO BIRON
540. IBAY JEFFERSON DE LEON
541. IBAY CAMILLE MAE DE LEON
542. IDOS CRISOSTOMO BACANG
543. ILAGAN MICHAEL IAN GELLA
544. ILAGAN MARIZA ANNE GELLA
545. ILIGAN NICOMEDES CILOY
546. IMPERIAL JAYSON ABALOS
547. INOG ROY EMMANUEL MAURICIO
548. INSO TORINO FANGED
549. IRINGAN ELBERT BACUD
550. ITOL MARK RG LOPEZ
551. JACOB HARVEY TABAMO
552. JADAONE RAINIER CARLO GARA
553. JAMOLIN JOESAMMY BUENAFLOR
554. JANDAYAN BRYAN RAMIREZ
555. JANOLINO NIÑO AUGUIS
556. JARAMILLO MARCUS FRANCISCO JISON
557. JARAPA DELFRADO JR DE LA CRUZ
558. JAVA JESSER JAY CUERPO
559. JAVIER SHERWIN FRANCIS D
560. JAVIER JOSE DOMINGO CASTRO
561. JAYSON JASON COLMAR
562. JIMENEZ JOHN EMMANUEL ALCANTARA
563. JOVERO JOVITO JR BUSTILLO
564. JUAREZ MICHAEL SANDOVAL
565. JUBILAN JAY BAULETE
566. JUMAO-AS JAY FLORE
567. JUSAYAN NOVEN JOHN III BASADRE
568. KATALBAS JUBERT PEDRANO
569. KHE JOSE DELFIN ESTENOR
570. KILAKIL LOUIE STEVE LAWAGAN
571. KIMAYONG VINCENT NGIPOL
572. KINANG AL-RIEZA SAILAMA
573. KIUNISALA HARRY MUGOT
574. KIWANG BENJAMIN JR TAO-EY
575. LA VICTORIA MAYLAN DAVE BINAYAO
576. LAAB ROMANO JR FLORES
577. LABANOK MARS SADIACO
578. LABASTIDA SCHWAB JEWEL CHIA
579. LABIAO RAY JOHN GADIANE
580. LABIO GILBERT MURLA
581. LABOS BJORN JOHN CUSTODIO
582. LADAGA JOHN KENNETA
583. LADERO JOHN MICHAEL HALIM
584. LAGASCA ROSA MIA VALENTOS
585. LAGOS EVANGELINE MULINGBAYAN
586. LAIGO RAYMOND PHILIP TERNATE
587. LAMUG JOHN CARLO BACLIT
588. LAÑADA REYNALD HENRY LACSON
589. LANGAMAN DENVER BELLEN
590. LANGWAS DENZIL MARZAN
591. LANZUELA CARLOS JR GAVINA
592. LAPIGUERA SEGUNDO III SIBULO
593. LAPINIG DENIS PAUL TRILLO
594. LARGO LUVILYN PENDON
595. LARU-AN ORLANDO ALBERTO
596. LASMARIAS CHARLES BRYAN PACTORES
597. LASPIÑAS JULBEN GUEVARRA
598. LAURENTE PERFECTO II AGUINALDO
599. LAVADIA NAPOLEON MALAMUG
600. LAVILLA EDRICK FRONDOZO
601. LAYACAN MANUEL JR CRISOSTOMO
602. LAYNO REENA LOUISA ANG
603. LECAROS JULIUS CAESAR BATAANON
604. LEE SHAUR MING CATINDOY
605. LEMON MICHAEL LOUIE FLORESCA
606. LENARDO GERSON JANSON
607. LENOMTA FRED LOMONG-EY
608. LEUTERIO JAN VINCENT HIFARVA
609. LEYBA EMIL GASPAR
610. LEYNES MELANIE MARARAC
611. LIBIRAN ERLON SANDY MAE OLAGUIR
612. LIBUTAN JOSE JR DE LEON
613. LICOS MARK FORMALES
614. LIGUTAN ANGELO TARABASA
615. LIGUTAN CARLO TARABASA
616. LIM JOHN MICHAEL BABOT
617. LIMMAYOG JOLLY BRYAN GANABAN
618. LIMOS ALDRIN RICO
619. LINAO ANDREW MISAGAL
620. LINGAT FRANCISCO III CUBAS
621. LIRIO CHRISTOPHER TATEL
622. LIZONDRA ARVY MALLARI
623. LLANETA ORIEL FRANCIS BERDUL
624. LLAPITAN WALLY TARUN
625. LLAVE MARK CHRIS LEGSON
626. LOGARTA EARL JAMES AGUILAR
627. LOGRONIO MIGUEL JR QUINTOS
628. LOMIBAO ARTHUR CHASE DADEY
629. LOOT BEAWULF REYES
630. LOPENA LARRY DEGAY
631. LOPEZ NOEL CALUZA
632. LOPEZ ARJAY LITTAUA
633. LORENZO ANDREW VINLUAN
634. LOVEREZ RICHARD GREGORY BAYAGA
635. LOZADA RODOLFO JR M
636. LUMACTOD ARLAN TABANO
637. LUMANOG GILBERT FUENSALIDA
638. LUMAYNO NOVE FELINA PICASALES
639. LUNAG JESSIE DUMAYAHON
640. LUZA MAYREL ALLAN ABAO
641. MAAGAD MARK FUENTES
642. MAATA ROMEO VILLARTA
643. MABALOT REBECCA ESTONILO
644. MABBORANG EVA CALAYAN
645. MABBORANG ERICK RYAN DULIN
646. MACABULHAY EUNICE ELLING
647. MACANDOG MARJORIE DELORIA
648. MACARAEG MICHAEL JOY INES
649. MACOPIA FERDINAND DULAY
650. MADAYAG CHRISTINA RONDON
651. MADRIAGA DANTE JR CRUZ
652. MAGAMAY EVAR LOUIE HONCULADA
653. MAGBOJOS RYAN JOSEPH LUSUNG
654. MAGLALANG JAY PERCIVAL DUPAYA
655. MAGLOCUT ALBERT FIGURADO
656. MAGNAYE JAN CENON PADRO
657. MAHILUM DICKSON FLORES
658. MAJAROCON MANDY RONDINA
659. MAKALINTAL EMMANUEL VIRTUCIO
660. MALACAD MICHAEL ORTEGA
661. MALAQUE RENIEL MIRA
662. MALIDOM HERALD BANGSAIL
663. MALING ROMEL TOMA AG
664. MALLABO TEODORO JAMES BUENAVISTA
665. MALLARE MANUEL CO
666. MALLARI CLARK JHUN TORRES
667. MALOGDOS WALTER BOCACEO
668. MAMA YUSOPH II DANGCAL
669. MAMARIL AIAN LESTER LABSAN
670. MAMONGAY MANUEL FRANCISCO
671. MANAGUELOD IRWIN B
672. MANAHAN RAFAEL NAVARRO
673. MANALASTAS ROBERTO DEL CASTILLO
674. MANALILI JOSE JERONIMO CAMPOMANES
675. MANALO JOSE MARI ORTIZ
676. MANANDEG MARIA LOURDES PAGUNURAN
677. MANANGHAYA JOHN HERBERT SAMANIEGO
678. MANAPAT ELNISON VALERO
679. MANAPOL MIKHAIL LEOLARDO SANTOS
680. MANAS MICHAEL MARLVIN NICANOR
681. MANCAO GEORGE LUCERO
682. MANEBOG EMILIO CASTILLO
683. MANEJE ROLAND JONAS
684. MANGALI STEVENSON BULALIT
685. MANGOSING RODERICK ALMERON
686. MANINANG VLADIMER ARCONCEL
687. MANLUSOC RICARDO JR PINEDA
688. MANUEL ELLAND REY MANGAOANG
689. MANUEL JEMER IAN MIGUEL
690. MANUEL CRISPIN JR IDDIH
691. MANZANO EDMUND GOZE
692. MAQUIDA WELLARD STA ANA
693. MAQUILING MALBERT JAMITO
694. MARALLI DEJOME EMPEDRAD
695. MARAYAG JOEY LITO SYLIM
696. MARBELLA ILDEFONSO VERANO
697. MARCIAL EDWIN JR VIVAS
698. MARCOS DARWIN PANGA
699. MARDO HENRY JEFF RAMIREZ
700. MARIANO BERNACION JR SAN JUAN
701. MARIANO RONNIE DEL ROSARIO
702. MARILAG ROVINA SALVADOR
703. MARISTELA VERNON POLICARPIO
704. MARQUEZ RONNIE FUSILERO
705. MARQUEZ RABIE JOHN MORALES
706. MARTAL EPHRAIM RAYMUNDO
707. MARTINEZ DEO ROJAS
708. MARTINEZ JOE PATRICK ABARADO
709. MARZAN IGOR IVAN IDIA
710. MASANGKAY BRYAN VILLEGAS
711. MASEDMAN GARY DIS-IW
712. MASING LOURDINE JOYCE TAPLIN
713. MASLANG DINDO JEFF LIWANEN
714. MATA LEONIDES VENTURA
715. MATALINES NINO NORMAN ACHONDO
716. MATEO EDWIN JR CASABAR
717. MATI IBRAHIM PANLAQUE
718. MAUSING CARYL JOYCE SIBUG
719. MAYAO LARRY LONGE
720. MAYRENA EMMANUEL FLORES
721. MAZO BARD CAESAR POSAS
722. MAZO LEO CAESAR IAN PAJE
723. MEDINA LAWRENCE DENORA
724. MEJIA JOEL GARCIA
725. MELCHOR RUBELYN GONZALES
726. MENDEZ ROGELIO JR CAAYA
727. MENDOZA JEFFERSON MANDIGMA
728. MENDOZA MARIO JR CABRAL
729. MENDOZA VIKTOR IMMANUEL LIM
730. MENDOZA FERDINAND DAPASEN
731. MENDOZA JEFFREY GERONIMO
732. MERCADO JETHRO ALBISO
733. MINERO DARLENE LOBRIGO
734. MISA JOSELITO CANILLO
735. MOGAO DARWIN PIO PAKITOL
736. MOJICA ARES BILUGAN
737. MOLDEZ JESSIE MAR BENAOJAN
738. MOLINA MICHAEL IRAOLA
739. MONGADO JUANITO PERCOL
740. MONTEALEGRE PAUL VINCENT BAUTISTA
741. MONTEJO SHERWIN REY QUIJANO
742. MONTENEGRO HERBERT PABILIA
743. MORADA JULIUS MILLENA
744. MORADOS JAYRYL TUBLE
745. MORALES CONNERY ANDRES
746. MORALES CONFUCIUS JOHN ANDRES
747. MORALES NORMAN MONTANO
748. MORILLO GABRIEL TAPAGAYO
749. MOTENO DOMINIC CRIS BARCELONA
750. MOULIC KRIS LAWRENCE COLLADO
751. MUNDA JOVANE CALICDAN
752. NABONG MARY ROSE CABUENAS
753. NABOR EDMUNDO RELATO
754. NACAR CHRISTIAN NEL ASTO
755. NAC NAC LOURD ANGEL DEL PRADO
756. NAMORO FRANCIS HULGUIN
757. NANGPUHAN JULIAN II BELANGON
758. NAPE AUDY AMAR
759. NARAG PETER CALIMAG
760. NARAG FRANCISCO JR BASSIG
761. NARCISO BAHRAIN SARIO
762. NARDO TJ RAMIREZ
763. NARZABAL NEIL ERIC RELATADO
764. NAVARRO CHRISTOPHER DELOS REYES
765. NAVARRO JAYSON MERCADO
766. NAVARRO JAYSON FORTALEZA
767. NAVARRO NOEL A
768. NELVIS EMERSON PETTE
769. NEPOMUCENO NAP AUNZO
770. NGAO-I ALFREDO BAGTANG
771. NICOLAS REX SOMBILAN
772. NILAYAN ELGIN IPIL
773. NIÑO MADILYN GANNABAN
774. NOCON HONEYLET BAGUIO
775. NOVENO JULIUS CAESAR DRANCIANG
776. NUESTRO MARK NOEL TAMPIPEG
777. NUÑEZ VICENTE MORDENO
778. OBAYA JULIUS OLIVER GARCIA
779. OCAMPO ARTHUR ANGELO DE OCAMPO
780. OCHEDA ARVY MAGARZO
781. OCHIDA JOMER QUILET
782. OCLARIT RUTH ECHEVARRE
783. OCUMEN ARIEL DAN
784. OLAIVAR DOMINIQUE BANAC
785. OLANDAG GENNER WONG
786. OLOROSISIMO ARNEL BERNARDO
787. OMANDAM JUNIEDY PATOY
788. OMAY LORVEN MOJADO
789. OPLEDA JOSHUA MICHAEL VILLAFUERTE
790. ORCULLO JAYPEE FORTUITO
791. ORDILLO DANIEL CLAVERO
792. OROPEL VLADIMIR BAN ABECIA
793. OROPILLA CHRISTINE PILAR
794. PABAYA ARMIDA ETRATA
795. PACATANG CLIFFORD ABANCANA
796. PACHECO RESTER MIKKI PALAGANAS
797. PACIO ALDRIN CAYATOC
798. PADAMA ALLAN ABRAHAM BUSTRIA
799. PADAYHAG JIM LUBGUBAN
800. PAGADUAN GERALD DIRILO
801. PAGADUAN MARLO FERNAN NARANJO
802. PAGALING JILVINSON BANDIVAS
803. PAJE YVONE DHARREL BENTILLO
804. PAJEL DAVE ANTHONY MAGBANUA
805. PAJO WARREN MERINO
806. PALAFOX ARLENE Q
807. PALAPAG ALISON SANTUALLA
808. PALBERAS JUNIFER JUAN
809. PALECPEC VIRGILIO JR TADUAN
810. PALENCIA ALEXANDER SANCHEZ
811. PALMA JAYPEE SUNIO
812. PALMONES FOHIEMAR ARCILLA
813. PAMINTUAN MARCO LOR DIZON
814. PAÑA JAMES RAVEN HORMACHUELOS
815. PANABANG IRENEO BANGON
816. PANCHO MELCHOR JR BOOK
817. PANGAN CHRISTIAN RUDOLF LEE
818. PANSAON ERWIN EAOLBA
819. PARCON PHE ALEAH LEGARDE
820. PARCON RYAN ALMENDRAL
821. PARMO WILLIAM GONZALES
822. PARPAN JENNIFER MIDAY
823. PARRABA MARJOE MUTAS
824. PARUNGAO EPAUL JONE CAPOPEZ
825. PASAMANERO ADAM MATALINES
826. PASAMBA RENIER DATO
827. PASCUA RODEL VILLAFANIA
828. PATACSIL RANDY FLORES
829. PATRICIO RODERICK TOME
830. PATRON MARIA BELEN SEVERO
831. PATTAGUAN JULIET ALLAM
832. PAUIG FERDINAND TUMALIUAN
833. PAULIN JOSAN JAE ALEGRADO
834. PAVILLAR LODGE JR NACILOAN
835. PAYAGEN RODELIO PANGA
836. PAYUMO ANGELI ABSIN
837. PECAOCO FRANCIS VINCENT FULLON
838. PELEO ANTONIO JR MAY-AO
839. PELILA HARRY BANG-CAWAYAN
840. PELONIA KRISTOFFER IAN LAYDEROS
841. PEPINO RUBEN JR SANTIAGO
842. PEREZ JOHN MARK SABANDAL
843. PEREZ RONEL TAPUCAR
844. PEREZ RUDOLPH BENJAMIN RACAMORA
845. PERLAS PATRICK JOSEPH APACIBLE
846. PESASE ROMUALDO CIANO
847. PILLA MARK ERWIN MALONGAYON
848. PINGIL MARGARETH DE GUZMAN
849. PION JORDAN SALVE
850. PORNASDORO KARLO PINOL
851. POTOY JUNREY BAGSICAN
852. POTUTAN CLIFF RICHARD NANGCAS
853. PRADO JHESTY PEDROSA
854. PRAICO SAMBROOK BERNALES
855. PRAMIS JOASH UMACLAP
856. PRECIOSO EDUARDO JR ACOB
857. PRINCESA IVAN CEASAR SASALUYA
858. PUGL'ON ELVIN D
859. PUMOS-AN JOSHUA EWOS
860. PUNZALAN JORDAN MERCADO
861. PURCIA CATHERINE CLEOFAS
862. PUTI MARIO ARTEMIO SOTTO
863. QUIAO DENNY LLOYD APLEXA
864. QUIAO RANDOLF RAMO
865. QUILANG MELVIN REY NACALABAN
866. QUIÑONES IRENE RODRIGUEZ
867. QUINTOS JAYSON GALZOTE
868. RABINA MICHAEL GACUTAN
869. RABINO ALLEN WILLIAM IV TOMINIO
870. RAGSAC JORDAN COSTALES
871. RAIZ GLENN KARL DAGSA
872. RAMA JOHN KRISTOPHER BACHECHA
873. RAMIREZ RAYNAN VILLANUEVA
874. RAMIREZ JOANNA MONTOYA
875. RAMIREZ JONATHAN QUIBOL
876. RAMONEDA HAZ VINCENT MASCARIÑAS
877. RAMORES RAFAEL JAY PANDI
878. RAMOS REAGIE MARC MAR
879. RAMOS CATHY ROSE DE CASTRO
880. RAMOS JAYSON JAMANI
881. RATERTA EDUARDO JR BAGAS
882. RATUNIL RUPHEL MARTIN LOPEZ
883. RAVELO ROSELLE ABADILLA
884. RAVENA PAUL GUERRERO
885. REAS SHARON LORENZO
886. REBETA JOAN DEQUINA
887. REDULLA JUDE ROMANILLOS
888. REGIS CHRISTIAN GEORGE GRANADA
889. RELON MARIO RABIT
890. REMIGIO ANTONIO III CHUA
891. REMIGIO REY RABI
892. RENDIZA JAY-AR ALIBANBAN
893. REPIZO CHARLES RIVADULLA
894. RESPICIO LLOYD HALLARSIS
895. RESTOR ROEL ANGELES
896. RESURRECCION DENNIS PAICA
897. RETUMBA PATRICK JAY MARISCOTES
898. REYES RAYMOND SALAZAR
899. REYES ALVIN BUTZ VENES
900. REYES JOANNAH MARIZ OCAMPO
901. REYTA ERBE DONATO
902. RICABLANCA BRIAN LOFRANCO
903. RIMAS NONYLEN VILLA
904. RIVERA EDWIN SAKITING
905. RIVERA HEINRICH MIER
906. RIZALDO REX FLORES
907. ROBILLOS ALEXANDER MENESES
908. RODA MARCO PAULO BACAL
909. ROLDAN RAYMOND AMOROSA
910. ROMA GERRY CAHUCOM
911. ROMANO KENNY ALALAN
912. ROMERO MARC ANTHONY GONZALEZ
913. ROMO JULIUS FREDRIK ANTERO
914. ROMUALDO MANUEL JR DIAZ
915. RONCAL GLEN BALISI
916. ROQUE MICHAEL SOLIVEN
917. ROSALEJOS ERIC JAMES LOBITAÑA
918. ROSALES CYRIL CONDE
919. ROSCIOS JEFFERSON JORDA
920. ROSEL MARK ANTHONY SALALIMA
921. ROTO SANE GALLEGO
922. ROTONI WILBUR SERAFIN FLORES
923. ROXAS GLENN ILAGAN
924. ROYANDOYAN JANJAN ABONALES
925. RUBIA MIGUEL RODNEY OLA-A
926. RUELAN ROBEL FRANCIS CAPUTOLAN
927. RUSEL ANGELITO G
928. SABENACIO LENDEL RODRIGUEZ
929. SABORNIDO RENANTE CARTAGENA
930. SACLAUSO JENNY KILAPKILAP
931. SACLOLO TRISTAN ROLLON
932. SAGANDOY JOEL BAGANGAN
933. SAGARIO JAN JUSTIN PILANGA
934. SALAS ALVIN SEMERA
935. SALCEDO ERICSON PALEC
936. SALDIVAR VERLYN ANDAYA
937. SALDIVAR ROMULO RAGUINE
938. SALIMBANGON ACE BENJAMIN MENDOZA
939. SALMINGO VINCE EDWARD CINCO
940. SALUDEZ ARNOLD TUNGCUL
941. SALVA EDUARDO CAADYANG
942. SALVADOR JAMES BRYAN BUNDOC
943. SALVATIERRA MARY ROSE BACUAG
944. SAMSON BRIAN OLIVER ROXAS
945. SAMSON HARRY VELASQUEZ
946. SAN GABRIEL JEAN PAUL TUSONGBANUA
947. SANCHEZ JONATHAN FELIX
948. SANGALANG JAKE G
949. SANIK CHARLTON ARMEA
950. SANTE ROWENA MANGUIAT
951. SANTIAGO CARLITO BABALCON
952. SANTOS JOSE MARIA VILLANUEVA
953. SARAUSAS JONATHAN NEMENZO
954. SARSAGAT KRISNEK PETER GOMEZ
955. SASAKI KATSUHITO VELANO
956. SAYGO GLENN ANIANO
957. SEMBRANO WARNY FABROA
958. SEMILLA JERICK BAYLIN
959. SEMILLANO FLORA LIZA GARANCHO
960. SENON MARLON MILITANTE
961. SERAPIO FELIX JR ARRIETA
962. SERRANIA JAMES IVORY MONTEMOR
963. SEVERINO BERNARD JAMES BULOS
964. SIANQUITA GLENN PEREZ
965. SIBUG JULIE ANN SALENGA
966. SIBUG FREDLENDER DOMINGO
967. SIERRA ROMMEL BERNARDINO
968. SIMON ROTCHELLE AJERO
969. SINO CRUZ JEROE REFUGIA
970. SOBERANO ERIC MARCOS DUMO
971. SOCONG JO ANNE OMUS
972. SOLANO RAFAEL LLANETA
973. SOLITA JERNIE CANUZO
974. SOMERA ALVIN PAPARON
975. SOMGA RAPHAEL EVANGELISTA
976. SORIA AIROS MARIANNE BASA
977. SORIA VALIEA ESPINOSA
978. SOTELO MARINES SALVACION
979. SUAN DEXTER ARANAS
980. SUAYBAGUIO KEVIN ALIVIO
981. SUERTE ROCO ALBAN
982. SULAYAO RENATO LADDARAN
983. SY ARCHIE CARLOS MINDORO
984. TABADAY CLEOFF BARELA
985. TABBU FREDERICK PUSTAZA
986. TABLICO ALVYN CURA
987. TABOR ELMER TEMPLONUEVO
988. TACIO JIMBER COMISING
989. TADEO DENNIS CASTRO
990. TAGABUAN FREDERIC OLIVER LUCAS
991. TAGORIO JEREMY MONTEMAYOR
992. TAGTAG ARTHUR JR CASIBINDING
993. TAGUIAN MARK JOHN EDIC
994. TAGUINOD MAC PAUL ANTONIO
995. TALATTAD JOHN CHRISTOPHER LAUGAN
996. TAMAYO MICHAEL BALLESTEROS
997. TAN CHARLES DENNIS IZQUIERDO
998. TAN LEONIL ALEXIS ECLE
999. TENIEDO PRINCETON BIEN BRILLO
1000. TESORO BENJAMIN JR REYES
1001. TIBULE JAN MICHAEL GARCIA
1002. TINDOY JAYSON RAMIREZ
1003. TIU MARFE ACUÑA
1004. TOBIAS CHRISTOPHER YURO
1005. TOLENTINO MARX LENIN GAMANA
1006. TOLENTINO LUMERRY CANDELARIO
1007. TOLENTINO CHRISTINE VILLANUEVA
1008. TOME JUNREY TABUADA
1009. TO ONG MARK LESTER MARIQUIT
1010. TUQUERO ARISTON JR DELA CRUZ
1011. TORIO ANTHONY DIEGO
1012. TRINIDAD PETER NEIL ESPLANA
1013. TRUMPETA GERRY BUAYA NICOMEDES
1014. TUBA ROSSYTHEL DAYONOT
1015. TUBAY DENNIS SUMAOANG
1016. TUDDAO HERBERT RESCAR
1017. TUGUIC JAIME JR BANYA-AO
1018. TUGUIC JINKIE BANYA-AO
1019. TUMASIS RON ALBERT RUTE
1020. TUQUERO ERICKSON PACIS
1021. TURIANO BENJAMIN JR HUGO
1022. UAYAN KIMO INGKING
1023. ULANDAY PEPITO JR SOTELO
1024. UMALI PHILIP LUISTRO
1025. UMALLA BENJIE DAIREN A
1026. UNABIA JELYNNE PAJALOS
1027. UNTALAN ALLAN JIMENEZ
1028. UNTALAN MARK DAVID ABAD
1029. URBANO CHRISTOPHER CESA AQUINO
1030. USMAN WILSON JR HOFER
1031. USON VICTOR PARAISO
1032. VALDEO JOY FATIMA PINEDA
1033. VALDERAMA NATHANIEL NICART
1034. VALENCIA JOMEL ARIEL MAGAÑA
1035. VALENTOS JEROME CORIMO
1036. VALENZUELA JEFFREY OCON
1037. VALEROS HAZEL SALUDES
1038. VALLEJOS MAURENCE JOHN DEL ROSARIO
1039. VALLESPIN JUNRHYAN OLIE
1040. VASQUEZ VANESSA GALICIA
1041. VEGAS MARY JOANNE OLARTE
1042. VELARDE RICHARD COSO
1043. VELASCO ROY JOSEPH ENRIQUEZ
1044. VELASCO MACMILLAN ZABLAN
1045. VELASCO BRYAN LUZADAS
1046. VELEZ RYANN RENEGADO
1047. VERZOLA MILTON JOHN BANISAL
1048. VIAGEDOR JOEL SORIANO
1049. VILLA FRANKLIN SABADO
1050. VILLALUZ GIANCARLO TORRALBA
1051. VILLAMOR JUVILL PAGALING
1052. VILLANUEVA CLEMELYN GARABILES
1053. VILLAPANTE FRANCIS TOBIAS
1054. VILLAREAL ARGYL CZESARA BARANDAN
1055. VILLARICO CHRISTOPHER CERENIO
1056. VILLARUEL ZEB BAGSIC
1057. VILLENO MARVIN JOSEPH ALCAYDE
1058. VIRTUDEZ KRISTINE JEAN ALLERA
1059. VISITACION ARNAN ESPINOSA
1060. VIZCARRA JOSE JR MARBAS
1061. WAHING RONALD DEGAMO
1062. YAGONIA NELSON JON COMILING
1063. YAMAGATA STEPHANEY ESCORPION
1064. YAOS MIGUEL PUKYAS
1065. YAP EDUARD GIUSEPPE AGUSTINO
1066. YAP CARLO MONTORO
1067. YAPAN JENRY LABBUTAN
1068. YASAY JULIUS SAGUN
1069. YBAÑEZ RAINIER LAPAÑA
1070. ZABALA ROCKY P JAY DULIN
1071. ZARANDONA MELVIN ALCALA
1072. ZATE REUBEN SANCHO BOLIVAR
1073. ZUÑO GERALD JOHN RICERRA

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Will you give up your name for canned tuna?

By Gil Cabacungan

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has minced no words in telling Spain that historical relationship between the two countries would be put under serious strain should the former colonizer refuse to give Philippine canned tuna exports wider access to Europe.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said: "I told my counterpart in Spain, 'You really have to look at this very seriously because Filipinos will not accept the fact that Spain will not support the Philippines. I'm sure you have your reasons but this will not be accepted.' If they forsake us, we might be forced to change all our Spanish names."

Aquino said he talked with trade ministers from Spain and the rest of European Union members during the Asean European Ministers meeting to lobby for their support in giving Philippine canned tuna exports similar perks to those granted to competing products from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP).

An EU trade accord granted duty free access to imports from ACP countries including canned tuna which would put at a disadvantage canned tuna imports from the Philippines and Thailand that are slapped 24 percent. Tuna exports contribute between $100 million and $200 million to the Philippine economy annually.

Aquino stressed that EU granted the trade perks to ACP largely because these were former European colonies. Since the Philippines was a colony of Spain for three centuries, Aquino said the Philippines should also be eligible for these perks.

Ad execs hit noontime 'freak shows'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SHOCKED silence filled the room.

McCann Erickson, the country's largest ad agency had just finished presenting to top advertisers, show producers and media strategists an analysis of the current most popular noontime television shows.

Skimpily clad women gyrating to loud music, TV hosts' adlibs filled with sexual innuendos, and games that subjected contestants to ridicule, had obviously grossed out the select group.

McCann chair Emily Abrera proceeded with the discussion at hand, "Pulse of the Media: A Quantitative Analysis of MTB (Magandang Tanghali Bayan, ABS-CBN) and Eat Bulaga (GMA-7)."

The message was clear: institute immediate reforms and improve the contents of the shows, which are viewed by some three million people daily, a quarter of them children. Or else the agency, which handles about P3 billion worth of advertising money annually, would initiate quick and concerted ad pullouts.

That was two weeks ago.

Early this week, Venus R. Navalta, managing director of Universal McCann—the agency's media placement arm—said "slight" improvements had since been noted in the programs.

"Dancers have more body cover now and are gyrating less," Navalta said, and contestants in certain games were being treated better.

She said the agency had a responsibility to monitor the shows "constantly," since it routinely advised clients on ad placements. Because of the producers' willingness—and effort—to improve, she said, McCann had not yet proceeded with its ad pull-out drive.

McCann executives said the analysis/presentation, during which samplings of Eat Bulaga and MTB were reviewed, had been made in response to growing public concern about distasteful material in the two shows.

Members of the review group found "visual materials and language with mature themes" in both programs.

Cesar Munar of Coca-Cola Export Corp. said, "Kids are watching. We have to draw the line . . . and start imparting good values."

Abrera lamented "scenes that you associate with men's clubs—live shows practically."

Other McCann officials felt the rival networks were simply trying to "outgross" one another.

Program clips viewed included that of an Eat Bulaga game that was recently discontinued. A contestant was shown eating raw liver and a block of raw tuna fish. Another clip showed some female show hosts eating a longish piece of meat which the other hosts insinuated was an animal's sex organ.

"Mamaya pakakain ko sa inyo 'to (I will let you eat this one later)," said host Vic Sotto in yet another clip, addressing the men in the audience and referring to a female dancer.

"The worst assault is the violence (that these things inflict on) our spirit . . . to make us feel there's no way that we might make some money without demeaning ourselves," Abrera stressed.

Navalta added, "For P5,000 you risk your life (on nationwide TV)? It is almost like a freak show."

THE FOLLOWING are the names of the 1073 successful examinees in the recently concluded PMA Entrance Examinations conducted on September 22, 2002 in 33 various exam centers nationwide. They will be formally informed by letter of the date of reporting to the AFP Medical Center for Medical Examinations. For more information, visit our website at www.pma.ph or call (02) 911-1118 PMA Liaison Office

1. ABAY ANTHONY ANDREW DELOS SANTOS
2. ABAYON JOVEN ALCOBER
3. ABELLA JAN ZABALA
4. ABELLAR ALLAN ALBERT CHUA
5. ABESAMIS RICKY MARTIN ZABALLERO
6. ABLANG ARI BEN LARIDA
7. ABRIL ZENABELL YAMAT
8. ABRIL SATURNINO ROMERO
9. ABUAN JESSEN JAE CANTOR
10. ABUAN ELPIDIO JR DAPIAOEN
11. ABUTAZIL SOURAB JAINOR SANTOS
12. ABUY ALEXIS RAMBAUD
13. ACEBEDO RONNIE BERNABE
14. ACHANZAR JACKSON ADDUCUL CARIG
15. ACHANZAR CHRISTY ISIS ASENETA
16. ACHURRA ARIEL BRYAN BUNCIO
17. ACIO JOHN PAUL PALACPAC
18. ACOSTA MA KATRINA CALUGAY
19. ACTUB JEAZZINE INGRET ESQUIERDO
20. ADAJAR JOHN OLIVER PAQUIT
21. ADAJAR ANTHONY REYMUND PAQUIT
22. ADARME MARY GRECELLE GUEVARRA
23. AGARAN JUERGEN VIDAL
24. AGBAYANI ALFREDO III PAZ
25. AGENCIA FERDINAND INION
26. AGGASID JONER CORPUZ
27. AGRAVANTE LORENZO JR TEOKON
28. AGTOTO LIBERTY VIDOR
29. AGUILAR JOHN DAVE G
30. AGUIMBAG HUBERT GUTIERREZ
31. ALANGWAWI JAKE ANTHONY LICYAYO
32. ALAURIN KEPREY NAIRA
33. ALBANO MARLO PEREZ
34. ALBAÑO MICHAEL DOROS
35. ALBITOS BERNIE NARIO
36. ALCALA LEONARD SAAVEDRA
37. ALCANTARA SHALIMAR CASTILLO
38. ALCAYAGA GERWIN BELGAR
39. ALEJO BRYAN DOMINGO
40. ALIBASA BERNARDO II CHAVEZ
41. ALMAZORA CRIS ANTHONY YABA
42. ALO RALPH SYLVESTER ECHAVEZ
43. ALOC DENNIS MARK PANESA
44. AL-SHAHAWAY IAN JOHN MOSQUEDA
45. ALVAREZ JENSEN MAGOYOB
46. AMADO DENNIS GILALA
47. AMBITO RYAN PAUL PAGDANGANAN
48. AMBONG-KANE BLODECK DOLLOSA
49. AMOROSO ALEXIS ESTAVILLO
50. AMPO JOHN-CONDOR BERSABAL
51. ANASTACIO AZINETH DINGDING
52. ANAUD DIANA CAMPOS
53. ANDAYA JAMES LOWELL DYD ONCO
54. ANDAYA JONATHAN JAMES DUMAYAG
55. ANIHAO DIANNE QUIRANTE
56. ANISCO MICHAEL LEIGH BUENAFE
57. ANTONIO LEMUEL RAE II ANCHETA
58. ANULACIONN ALFREDO JR SEMANA
59. APAYOR VINCENT ANGILAN
60. APOLINARIO ALEX JR RODRIGUEZ
61. APOLONIO LIMWELL GAMBOA
62. APUD JULIUS PATRICK OBAÑA
63. AQUIATAN MARK VEGA
64. AQUINO MARVIN PRESCILLA
65. AQUINO JOSE MARIA DAZO
66. AQUINO CYRUS TAMONDONG
67. AQUINO MARVIN VILORIA
68. AQUINO ERIC CABAUATAN
69. AQUINO JOSS DUNROSS DE MESA
70. AQUINO ERIC CAPUDOY
71. AQUINO AR-JAY AGUILAR
72. AQUITANIA JEZSON MUNDO
73. ARAGONCILLO RYANN ANTHONY JANDAYRAN
74. ARAIZ DENNIS BULAGA
75. ARANTE ARIES LAT
76. ARCILLA MARIA CRISTINA DELFIN
77. ARDEDON HOWARD ATONDUCAN
78. ARDINA JAYSON CELINDRO
79. ARELLANO CARLO MOTA
80. ARGETE EUMIR PAGADO
81. ARMADA PACITA
82. ASIA WILORD
83. ASIS BRAULIO JR KUINISALA
84. ASUNCION ARTHUR FOSTER
85. ASUNCION JUAN PAULO GABRES
86. ATEO-AN JOSEPH JR KINGO
87. ATMA MACLI-ING EWAY
88. ATMA CONRADO EWAY
89. AVISADO AL-JHAMES HENRY CUARTOCRUZ
90. BABANO KAREN BOLONGAITA
91. BABARAN RIZZA CASAUAY
92. BABARAN GLENDA PAROBROB
93. BACALZO RAUL JR GRANADOS
94. BACANG VERNON CAGATIN
95. BACIERRA LEOPOLDO JR BLONES
96. BACOLCOL BERYL CHARITY TIMOTEO
97. BADILLA REY CHRISTIAN IMPERIAL
98. BAEL RONIL DAJUELA
99. BAELLO MARK JEFFREY BASE
100. BAGUISI ALAIN BAÑGUG
101. BAGUITAN GREGORIO JR DAMPALIG
102. BAJANDI NOEL TORRES
103. BALADAD JOVENCIO JR PEMPEÑA
104. BALAMBAN JODEL LANGBAYAN
105. BALANAG CARMELLE TIFFANY RACAZA
106. BALANBAN DAVID MANGHI
107. BALANGUE MARVIN GUERRERO
108. BALDO ROLDAN RODINAS
109. BALEN MYRON ROEY CRESMUNDO
110. BALETE GLENMAR PADRON
111. BALINGCASAG DONNA ELLA GABORNES
112. BALIOTA CARLO CHINO GARCIA MARIO
113. BALISI JEFFREY LAS BAÑES
114. BALISI JOHN BENITO CORDON
115. BALLERDA EDSON EMPLEO
116. BALLESTEROS RYAN MEIMBAN
117. BALLESTEROS RICHARD PALMA
118. BALO JOHN GUILLER ARAÑAS
119. BANAO CARLITO JR BALUGA
120. BANATAO NOVELYN ANN CARLOS
121. BANAY PAUL III TADLAS
122. BANCILO JANUARIO SICDAWAG
123. BANCUD APRILIZA ANISCAL
124. BANDIOLA GERALDINE HIPONIA
125. BANGLAG ALFONSO JR CHULSI
126. BANGOC LJUBOMIR RE FRANCISCO
127. BAPTISTA RICHARD MACARIO
128. BARBARA NOLIMAR TAGUBA
129. BARCELONA ERNST JEFFREY CAPOY
130. BARQUIN IANTED MOLABOLA
131. BARRETE EDUARDO JR DAYRIT
132. BARRIOS GEOFFREY GORDON
133. BARRO JAN BRIAN MAHUSAY
134. BARROGA GLYNN ANTHONY ALARCON
135. BARTOLOME SIMON JR PORNILLOZA
136. BARUELA ENRIQUE JR REFERENTE
137. BASAS BENJIE SOMBRIO
138. BASTARECHE NICHOL JAY MORALES
139. BATALLA PATRICK ALFONSO
140. BATCHAR RHYAN BAGANG
141. BATISTIANA JEFFREY LAURIAN
142. BATTUNG PETER GAMMAD
143. BAUTISTA HERCULES C
144. BAUTISTA JENNIFFER BARDIANO
145. BAUTISTA CHRISTOPHER RINO BATAC
146. BAUTISTA JOHN ALBERT HERMOSO
147. BAY-AN GAVINO JOHN III BIYO
148. BAYLOSIS MARY MAUREEN TORRES
149. BAYUGA JOSEPH EDWARD JR JIMENO
150. BAZAR ALVIN C JAO
151. BEDICER FAITH JOHN LOMELO
152. BELEO CHESTER MASILIAN
153. BELLEZA JOHN PAUL LUMBANG
154. BELLEZA JOHN JOEL ESPENDE
155. BELLO ANNE BERNADETTE TRINIDAD
156. BELLOSILLO RONALD CABIO
157. BELMONTE KRISTOFFER ADUFE
158. BELTRAN AMERIGO RAGUINDIN
159. BELTRAN JONELLE DIEGO
160. BELVEDER ENRICO III ODULIO
161. BENEMERITO RAJIV CONSTANTIN LASMARIAS
162. BENITEZ ALEXANDER LALATA
163. BEPITEL JOE YVAN DOLOR
164. BERJUAGA JOHN AMANDO VERGARA
165. BERMEJO ALTHON UNDAN
166. BERNAL RYAN ACEDO
167. BERNARDO EDGAR JR SALES
168. BESINGA ALVIN BERNANTE
169. BIBON JONATHAN BELEN
170. BILAGOT REX ALVIN JR COMAOAY
171. BILARO JOWILOUIE BONAOBRA
172. BILLONES EPIE BARRETTO
173. BITAYO IVY GRACE BALAN
174. BIYO FRANCIS ALBERT MENDOZA
175. BO YURI DEANG
176. BOGYA RONALD LOUIE SAGSAGO
177. BOKINGO REY ESPERAGUERA
178. BONAMY QUESTVON BUENCAMINO
179. BONAYAO ALVIN MARK L
180. BONGAY ROBERTH TABIGNE
181. BONGYAD MONROE BOTOR
182. BONTIA DION BRAIAN GALAN
183. BORILLA ROY BARCENA
184. BORJA LOWIE URBANO
185. BOTANGEN MARK ORGANO
186. BOY GUILLERMO JR MALABANAN
187. BRAZA RONALD PANGLILINGAN
188. BREBONERIA JUVY BORROMEO
189. BRIÑAS NAPOLEON NIÑO IV AGUMBAY
190. BUA-AY GIL OCDEN
191. BUANZI OLIVIA WANAS
192. BUCALEN JOEY DOMATOG
193. BUENAFE EDDIE JR MENDELIBAR
194. BUENAVISTA JOSE VICENTE MENDOZA
195. BUENDIA JOEL L
196. BUENO AGERICO JR AGUSTIN
197. BUGASTO ALBERTO JR LAUREL
198. BUGNOSEN PERCIVAL GAWE
199. BUGNOSEN VICENTE GAWE
200. BULLAN LAMBERTO JR ESTIGOY
201. BULONG LIEZLE PULUPUL
202. BUNAGAN ENGELBERT TAMAYAO
203. BUNTALES JOHN PAUL REYES
204. BURCE RYAN EDMUND BONEO
205. BUSGANO FREDEWRICK CRUZ
206. BUSTILLO DOLORITHY MANGIGO
207. CAABUCAYAN DALE KEVIN RECIÑA
208. CABADING JACOB RUIZ VALENTIN
209. CABAEL ALFIE TAÑO
210. CABAGNOT THIELSON TUAREG MARALIT
211. CABAGUE JONINETH BOHOLST
212. CABALLERO VAY LUMIGUID
213. CABANILLA WREXTON DINAMPO
214. CABATIC CHRIS ISRAEL LIGSAY
215. CABAUATAN ANDROUS ROGEL CHOSAS
216. CABILES NORIEL LURICAN
217. CABOTEJA RAFFY LOZADA
218. CABRERA ANDRE AUNZO
219. CABRERA MURIEL ACABAL
220. CABREROS KALVIN SAN GABRIEL
221. CABUS MARK WYN GANDELA
222. CACHERO LEONEL LOMBOY
223. CAFUGAUAN JOHN THOMAS IRINGAN
224. CALANGI JERRYMIE BACAY AGUSTIN
225. CALIBUSO KATHY BOCO
226. CALIGUIRAN CHRISTIAN RIO
227. CALIGUIRAN JEFFERSON CAJULAO
228. CALILAO MAC JOEL CRISTOBAL
229. CALLANGAN GERRY BACUD
230. CALO MARK ALVIN ABOC
231. CALUB ZANDER BELINGON
232. CALUGAY DEXTER MALING
233. CALULOT ROY AUGUSTUS FRAGATA
234. CALUNGSOD EDMUND GAMBALAN
235. CALUNGSOD RYAN DE CATALINA
236. CALUSOR MARIA ROSARIO SERDIÑO
237. ANTHONY JUSTINIANI
238. CAMELON CHARLIE ANTHONY JUSTINIANI
239. CAMHIT ROLAND BINOMNGA
240. CAMITAN ROLAN QUIMIO
241. CAMORA CARL DINALO
242. CAMPO GIOVANNI GADA
243. CANAO WARLY DINULONG
244. CANES MAURICIE JAY JACOSALEM
245. CAÑETE REYNALDO JR BARCELONA
246. CANICULA LANDRADE JR CRUZ
247. CAÑON ZABELLE LAWAN
248. CANOY JESTER CABILIS
249. CAOILE JOSEPH MICHAEL MAGLINES
250. CAPALUNGAN JOHN SID TELAN
251. CAPISTRANO DAKILA FLORENDO
252. CAPIYAN DANIEL TEODORICO CUBILLAN
253. CARBONEL JORDAN LOMECIO
254. CARBONELL PAOLO GERARD VILLAR
255. CARIÑO DARRYL DACUMOS
256. CARIÑO GIAN CARLO CASTRO
257. CARLONA FERNANDO CERVANTES
258. CARLOS ZANDRO LUIS SAMPANG
259. CARMONA MARK RIKKO SUAZO
260. CARNASO REYNAN LASPRILLA
261. CARNOSO MICHAEL DONALD CASTILLON
262. CASACLANG MARK BRANDON MEJIA
263. CASTAÑEDA JOHN EARL LOPEZ
264. CASTILLANO EUGENE PALMARES
265. CASTILLO CYRUS ANGELO ALON
266. CASTILLO ERNESTO JR DANTES
267. CASTILLO LANCE CIPRIANI KUINISALA
268. CASTILLON MARK VERGEL GEVERO
269. CASTRO SHARON AGPALZA EVELAND
270. CASTRO ANGHEL MARIE DAVID
271. CASUGA RODOLFO JR ANDRADA
272. CATALAN CARLO LAZARTE
273. CATAMCO JESSON LACABA
274. CATAPANG NIÑO ACORDA
275. CATOLOS MARIA MYCA ELA TOLENTINO
276. CAYTON DAVID MANGONON
277. CEBEDO EARL JUMAWID
278. CEBRIAN METHUSAEL BROWN
279. CENAL CARLOS PENTON
280. CHAKAS WILLIAM JR ALIWENGWENG
281. CHAN NORIEL COBRADOR
282. CHOKOWEN NOEL AMKIKID
283. CHUA MICHAEL JERICO OCOMA
284. CIELO JENUDINE LORENZO
285. CODO-OG LEA DAGUYEN
286. COLANGAO DANTE ULAO
287. COLLADO MICHAEL MAGBANUA
288. COLUMNA JEFFERSON LAGARE
289. COMIA RONNIL JAMOLIN
290. COMPE GRACIANO CAERLANO
291. CONAG FRANCISCO ROJAS
292. CONSEJA JESUS JR VALDERAMA
293. CONSTANTINO JAYROLD EBREO
294. CORDERO ILUMINADO TAN
295. CORDERO ARNIE RAMOS
296. CORLETO RICALYN PAULA LOPEZ
297. CORMINAL CHARLES MORALES
298. CORPUZ JENNELYN DELOS SANTOS
299. CORPUZ ARIEL JOSE
300. CORREGIDOR JEFFREY BATULA
301. CORTEZ DOFRED FRIAS
302. CORTEZ ALDWIN GALVAN
303. CRUZ ROBBI IRVIN SAN JUAN
304. CRUZ MICHAEL JOHN ESPIRIDION
305. CRUZ ABIGAIL MARCELO
306. CRUZ EIDHERF SAN PEDRO
307. CUANAN EDGARD BUCO
308. CUARESMA ALEX CUNANAN
309. CUASAY SANDINO ABEJAR
310. CUAYZON JONAR VELASCO
311. CUENTA ERIC SANTOS
312. CUETO CONRAD JOSEPH VENADAS
313. CUETO CONRAD JONATHAN VENADAS
314. CUÑANO PAUL MICHAEL JOSE
315. CUNTAPAY CARLO TALOSIG
316. CUPAHAN JUNIE UDCHON
317. CUSTODIO RIZAL VIC CAMINADE
318. CUTAMORA MATHAN RAE SENDIONG
319. CUTARAN LEONUEL ABAD
320. DAGUIO RODEL BUENAFLOR
321. DALOPE TEDDY SORIANO
322. DAMIAN FRANCIS GAVAC
323. DAOAL EIJLER COMEYA
324. DAPIAWEN AMOR LUTO
325. DARAYAN ABEN ESMULA
326. DARIAGAN SUNSHINE ROLDES
327. DATOR NOEL POMINTEL
328. DATUL MARIO AGGABAO
329. DAVID XYRENE DIZON
330. DAVID ROMMEL MALACAY
331 DAYAO REINHART CLIVE JOMDOS
332. DE ANAS XERXIS REDON QUIDATO
333. DE CASTRO SYNE BELTRAN
334. DE GUZMAN WILLFRED PASCUA
335. DE GUZMAN RHODORA MONTEZOR
336. DE GUZMAN CHRISTOPHER CARO
337. DE JESUS MARCELINO LOGUES
338. DE LEON FRANCIS GILBERT DE LEON
339. DE VERA VERA LEON DE GUZMAN
340. DE VEYRA SEVERINO MICHAEL MARASIGAN
341. DECENA IRENE TRYL JAMILI
342. DEPELES DOUGLAS SALIENTE
343. DEL MONTE JIAN CARLO ORDUÑA
344. DEL ROSARIO EDGAR PEREZ
345. DELA CRUZ MICHAEL RYAN BACARON
346. DELA CRUZ JESS CALDONA
347. DELA CRUZ DENEB ARCTURUS CALIBOSO
348. DELA CUADRA ERNEST FRAGANTE
349. DELA CUESTA JOEMAR BALLAD
350. DELADA HAZEL LLOPEZ
351. DELOS REYES GLENN ALCABAN
352. DELOS REYES MARK JOEL JOSEPH
353. DEMOTICA JOVEN SILLA - MSU IIT ILIGAN CITY
354. DEDLAZO JAN-ALAIN HILARIO
355. DEPALUBOS LEMUEL IMPERIO
356. DERAMAS VINCENT EVAN SALUBON
357. DERRAMAS JACK LLOYD SALOMA
358. DESCUATAN NATHANIEL PAUL BOMBALES
359. DESQUITADO HJALMAR ONDOY
360. DESTREZA ROCKY DANLOG
361. DEYSOLONG AELRED JR MANSILLA
362. DIAZ JOSE MARI FRANCISCO
363. DIAZ ROSE CINTHY ANN FRANCISCO
364. DIAZ MARIO GANGE
365. DICIANO DOMINGO JR FERRER
366. DIDA JANMICHAEL CESAR LARA
367. DIGA PETER KING SIMON
368. DIMATATAC RAUL GABRIEL II SUAREZ
369. DIN MARLON TEJEROS
370. DINCOG DEXTER BANTEO
371. DINGLASAN JAMES JR BAY BAUAN HIGH SCHOOL
372. DIO JOSE MARIA ERVIN DAANOY
373. DIONELA NORMAN PADERNAL
374. DIOSO LOUI REVILLA
375. DIZON AIDA SIBAL
376. DOLERO CHERISH LOUISE DELOS REYES
377. DOLINO PAUL MICHAEL BAUTISTA
378. DOLIPAS JASON SEBIO
379. DOMENDEN CATHERINE LAGUTING
380. DOMINGO DENNIS CLARK CABERO BENIGNO V
381. DOMINGO PEDRO DALUNGAN
382. DOMINGO NICEL SUNGA
383. DOMINGO MARK TYRONE PADILLA
384. DOMINGO DHENE IAN FRANCISCO
385. DOMINGO RYAN JAY BALLESIL
386. DONIEGO BEN ALEPH JALOS
387. DONOSO EDSON JUDE HISOLER
388. DONQUE JERVEN PAUNGILAN
389. DORADO LEOPHARD LAURE
390. DORIA JONARD MANUEL
391. DRIZ EMMANUEL RAMOS
392 DUAZO RENO ANQUILO
393 DUENAS BRIAN PICCIO
394. DUGUIANG JIMMY JR DOMPAO
395. DULAY ALEXANDER BARANDINO
396. DULTRA ANALIE NAGA
397. DUMAGUIN DONNA MARIE HONRALES
398. DUMAGUING HAYDEN DEL CAMPO
399 DUMANGENG CHEVY REGINALD GUINILLING
400. DUMLAO CHRISTOPHER AGDEPPA
401. DURAN MICHAEL ERWIN CASTILLO
402. DURIA JEFFREY AQUINO
403. DUROTAN VIRGILIO JR AGNES
404. DUSARAN ANACLETO JR SAJO
405. EBALORO BARTOLOME GREGORIO
406. ECLARINO ROSELINE CAMACHO
407. ELE CHARLES ERNEST AGNA
408. ELEDA MARGARET ALCIERA
409. ELLAGA MARY JOY GLORIA
410. ELLO JOSE LAURO ANTON MENDOZA
411. EMETERIO HONORIO NOLI GUMAFELIX
412. ENAÑO CARLSON CASTILLO
413. ENDAYA JUNE LLANES
414. ENRIQUEZ ARNOLD SANTOS
415. ENTERINA STANLEY JR JAVIER
416. ERCILLA ERWIN CZAR CRUZ
417. ESCALERA REY EXEQUIEL COLUMNA
418. ESCANO MARK ANTHONY SISON
419. ESCOTE EDSIL GIRAY
420. ESICO RORY PIZARRO
421. ESILEN JEREMY BESAY
422. ESMEJARDA JOEL GUERNALDO
423. ESPINELI JAYPEE TEJIDOR
424. ESPINOLA ANTHONY ALBERT DIAZ
425. ESPIRITU OLIVIA DE GUZMAN
426. ESTACIO NADINE CHRISTY DEQUIÑA
427. ESTOESTA FRANCIS JOHN DATAN
428. ESTORCO NABURANIZZAR ANDALIS
429. ESTRADA JOHN JIMAR MACASINAG
430. ESTRADA MICHAEL JOHN VELASCO
431. EVANGELISTA JOHN ANDRE MEDINA
432. FABIAN KING LOPEZ
433. FAGELA RONALDO RETUTA
434. FALLAR JONALD NOBELFRANCIA
435. FARAL RIZZA LIZZA PESTIJO
436. FARIÑAS REY CARLOS
437. FELICIANO MARIO MOKHTARIAN
438. FELIZARTE WYANE MADRAZO
439 FERNANDEZ MAYNARD DIGAMON
440. FERNANDEZ GLIN MAR MIGUE
441. FILL BRYAN ANDAYA
442. FLOJO MEDIAH PERLE CLEMENTE
443. FLORENDO MARK EDWARD YUMUL
444. FLORES EDWIN FRIAS
445. FLORES ADRIAN KENNETH TIGUELO
446. FLORES RICHARD BRENT CONDE
447. FLORESCA FERDINAND JR MIRA
448. FRANCISCO JAN HEINRICH MONTILLA
449. FRANCISCO JONATHAN CUELLO
450. FRANCO NEPOMUCENO II TUZON
451. FRIAS MICHAEL ANDREW QUIROGA
452. FRIAS DONALD SANTOS
453. FRUTO PAUL HENRY GALIDO
454. FRUTO JAN VIRGIL GALIDO
455. FUENTES ERWIN ROMMEL CHIONG
456. FULGAR JEYSON FUTOL
457. FURIGAY MACARIO A
458. FUTALAN MARK PATRICK SANCHEZ
459. GABERTAN MILAR GRANFIL
460. GABOR JEFFREY LEGASPI
461. GADIL RITCHIE SIAPNO
462. GAERLAN MICHAEL LIMOS
463. GAFFUD JENNIFER VILLANUEVA
464. GALANG ARNOLD BUSTOS
465. GALANG JOSE CARLO ALVIAR
466. GALANZA GIAN CARLO AGGARI
467. GALARPE ROXAN ABAD
468. GALARRETTA ROUSSEL BONGCO
469. GALBIZO R-JAY ABUYEN
470. GALERA GERRY BINGAYAN
471. GALIMPIN JULIUS MICHAEL ESTOQUE
472. GALLEGO JOSEPH VICTOR PANES
473. GALLEGOS RALPH KRISTOFFER BARAOIDAN
474. GAMIT JEFFREY JAMES VALDEZ
475. GAMMAD FREDERICK ENGEL KWAN
476. GAMMAD MARK DAVIES GUITERING
477. GAMMAD BELLIE ANGELA KWAN
478. GANASAN PAUL DENVER BODO
479. GANCAYCO JASON ANGUE
480. GANILO HARVETTE DAMPAG
481. GARCIA MICHAEL JOHN REMIGIO
482. GARCIA JOEL LAYUGAN
483 GARCIA NAVAL CORONADO
484. GARCIA MICHAEL JENSEN MANANGAN
485. GARCIA ALEXANDER IMPERIAL
486. GARCIA PAULINE PATRICIA RAMA
487. GARCIA JUAN PAOLO ALIX
488. GARNADO JOHN LERY BAUTISTA
489. GASPAR RUBEN WALANG
490. GAYOSO RANELO MORLASA
491. GELI ROMMEL MOJICA
492. GENITA ESTELLA LABASTIDA
493. GENILING VAN JONATHAN DEL ROSARIO
494. GERONIMO AROLD ABANG
495. GIMENA MARK ANTHONY ROMAND
496. GOBWAY SEAN NABEJET
497. GOBWAY KENNY NEBEJET
498. GOMEZ ANGELO JOSE TAMONDONG
499. GOMEZ JULIUS CASTOR
500. GONGORA LEYNARD DEL VALLE
501. GONZALES NOMER ABELLAR
502. GONZALES RAFAEL LOUIS GABRIEL
503 GONZALES NILVER CALISAS
504. GONZALES DIANA CLARO
505. GONZALES MAULE LUIS JR SENA
506. GOTOC JOSEPH MACASIEB
507. GOZANES ERWIN CADORNA CENTRAL
508. GREGORIO MARIA LOURDES GERANGUE
509. GREGORIO JASPER IAN DEMON
510. GUANZON RYAN GUNAN
511. GUCE CONRADO JR A
512. GUCOR CECILIA JUSTOL
513. GUEVARRA JOHN ARMAND MERCADO
514. GUILLERGAN MARC MARION ABANGAN
515. GUILLERMO MARIA LYNETTE MORITO
516. GUINGAYAN JEOCKER NGIPPOL
517. GUIQUING JEFFREY VILLAR
518. GUITERING FERNANDO AGANA
519. GUITERING ANTONIO SALES
520. GUMAPAC ARGEE BAGAY
521. GUNIO ANGELA JOSE
522. GUTIERREZ NELSON CALAUNAN
523. HABABAG EDZEL BUENDIA
524. HABER ALPASER SALIM
525. HABUNAL JULIUS MONTEJO
526. HACLA RODEL PERALTA
527. HADJIRUL SARAH DURIA
528. HECOLE RECHELLE JOY BITOON
529. HERVAS GARY JAMES PAMA
530. HIBEK ROMULO LUCAS
531. HICBAN RYAN ROBES
532. HICBAN ARCHIE ROBES
533. HIDALGO ISMAEL DINGLASA
534. HIERCO ANTHONY IAN ROMA
535. HOBAYAN VALENTINA A. BALIAT
536. HUBO BOB JOHN CARLO ARIOLA
537. IBAÑEZ GIAN CARLO FABRO
538. IBARRA EDUARDO BIRON
539. IBARRA EDGARDO BIRON
540. IBAY JEFFERSON DE LEON
541. IBAY CAMILLE MAE DE LEON
542. IDOS CRISOSTOMO BACANG
543. ILAGAN MICHAEL IAN GELLA
544. ILAGAN MARIZA ANNE GELLA
545. ILIGAN NICOMEDES CILOY
546. IMPERIAL JAYSON ABALOS
547. INOG ROY EMMANUEL MAURICIO
548. INSO TORINO FANGED
549. IRINGAN ELBERT BACUD
550. ITOL MARK RG LOPEZ
551. JACOB HARVEY TABAMO
552. JADAONE RAINIER CARLO GARA
553. JAMOLIN JOESAMMY BUENAFLOR
554. JANDAYAN BRYAN RAMIREZ
555. JANOLINO NIÑO AUGUIS
556. JARAMILLO MARCUS FRANCISCO JISON
557. JARAPA DELFRADO JR DE LA CRUZ
558. JAVA JESSER JAY CUERPO
559. JAVIER SHERWIN FRANCIS D
560. JAVIER JOSE DOMINGO CASTRO
561. JAYSON JASON COLMAR
562. JIMENEZ JOHN EMMANUEL ALCANTARA
563. JOVERO JOVITO JR BUSTILLO
564. JUAREZ MICHAEL SANDOVAL
565. JUBILAN JAY BAULETE
566. JUMAO-AS JAY FLORE
567. JUSAYAN NOVEN JOHN III BASADRE
568. KATALBAS JUBERT PEDRANO
569. KHE JOSE DELFIN ESTENOR
570. KILAKIL LOUIE STEVE LAWAGAN
571. KIMAYONG VINCENT NGIPOL
572. KINANG AL-RIEZA SAILAMA
573. KIUNISALA HARRY MUGOT
574. KIWANG BENJAMIN JR TAO-EY
575. LA VICTORIA MAYLAN DAVE BINAYAO
576. LAAB ROMANO JR FLORES
577. LABANON MARS SADIACO
578. LABASTIDA SCHWAR JEWEL CHIA
579. LABIAO RAY JOHN GADIANE
580. LABIO GILBERT MURLA
581. LABOS BJORN JOHN CUSTODIO
582. LADAGA JOHN KENNETA
583. LADERO JOHN MICHAEL HALIM
584. LAGASCA ROSA MIA VALENTOS
585. LAGOS EVANGELINE MULINGBAYAN
586. LAIGO RAYMOND PHILIP TERNATE
587. LAMUG JOHN CARLO BACLIT
588. LAÑADA REYNALD HENRY LACSON
589. LANGAMAN DENVER BELLEN
590. LANGWAS DENZIL MARZAN
591. LANZUELA CARLOS JR GAVINA
592. LAPIGUERA SEGUNDO III SIBULO
593. LAPINIG DENIS PAUL TRILLO
594. LARGO LUVILYN PENDON
595. LARU-AN ORLANDO ALBERTO
596. LASMARIAS CHARLES BRYAN PACTORES
597. LASPIÑAS JULBEN GUEVARRA
598. LAURENTE PERFECTO II AGUINALDO
599. LAVADIA NAPOLEON MALAMUG
600. LAVILLA EDRICK FRONDOZO
601. LAYACAN MANUEL JR CRISOSTOMO
602. LAYNO REENA LOUISA ANG
603. LECAROS JULIUS CAESAR BATAANON
604. LEE SHAUR MING CATINDOY
605. LEMON MICHAEL LOUIE FLORESCA
606. LENARDO GERSON JANSON
607. LENOMTA FRED LOMONG-EY
608. LEUTERIO JAN VINCENT HIPARVA
609. LEYBA EMIL GASPAR
610. LEYNES MELANIE MARARAC
611. LIBIRAN ERLON SANDY MAE OLAGUIR
612. LIBUTAN JOSE JR DE LEON
613. LICOS MARK PORMALES
614. LIGUTAN ANGELO TARABASA
615. LIGUTAN CARLO TARABASA
616. LIM JOHN MICHAEL BAROT
617. LIMMAYOG JOLLY BRYAN GANABAN
618. LIMOS ALDRIN RICO
619. LINAO ANDREW MISAGAL
620. LINGAT FRANCISCO III CUBAS
621. LIRIO CHRISTOPHER TATEL
622. LIZONDRA ARVY MALLARI
623. LLANETA ORIEL FRANCIS BERDUL
624. LLAPITAN WALLY TARUN
625. LLAVE MARK CHRIS LEGSON
626. LOGARTA EARL JAMES AGUILAR
627. LOGRONIO MIGUEL JR QUINTOS
628. LOMIBAO ARTHUR CHASE DAOEY
629. LOOT BEAWULF REYES
630. LOPENA LARRY DEGAY
631. LOPEZ NOEL CALUZA
632. LOPEZ ARJAY LITTAUA
633. LORENZO ANDREW VINLUAN
634. LOVEREZ RICHARD GREGORY BAYAGA
635. LOZADA RODOLFO JR M
636. LUMACTOD ARLAN TABANO
637. LUMANOG GILBERT FUENSALIDA
638. LUMAYNO NOVE FELINA PICASALES
639. LUNAG JESSIE DUMAYAHON
640. LUZA MAYREL ALLAN ABAO
641. MAAGAD MARK FUENTES
642. MAATA ROMEO VILLARTA
643. MABALOT REBECCA ESTONILO
644. MABBORANG EVA CALAYAN
645. MABBORANG ERICK RYAN DULIN
646. MACABUHAY EUNICE ELLING
647. MACANDOG MARJORIE DELORIA
648. MACAREG MICHAEL JOY INES
649. MACOPIA FERDINAND DULAY
650. MADAYAG CHRISTINA RONDON
651. MADRIAGA DANTE JR CRUZ
652. MAGAMAY EVAR LOUIE HONCULADA
653. MAGBOJOS RYAN JOSEPH LUSUNG
654. MAGLALANG JAY PERCIVAL DUPAYA
655. MAGLOCOT ALBERT FIGURADO
656. MAGNAYE JAN CENON PADRO
657. MAHILUM DICKSON FLORES
658. MAJAROCON MANDY RONDINA
659. MALACINTAL EMMANUEL VIRTUCIO
660. MALACAD MICHAEL ORTEGA
661. MALAQUE RENIEL MIRA
662. MALIDOM HERALD BANGSAIL
663. MALING ROMEL TOMA-AG
664. MALLARO TEODORO JAMES BUENAVISTA
665. MALLARE MANUEL CO
666. MALLARI CLARK JHUN TORRES
667. MALOGDOS WALTER BOCACEO
668. MAMA YUSOPH II DANGCAL
669. MAMARIL AIAN LESTER LABSAN
670. MAMONGAY MANUEL FRANCISCO
671. MANAGUELOD IRWIN B
672. MANAHAN RAFAEL NAVARRO
673. MANALASTAS ROBERTO DEL CASTILLO
674. MANALILI JOSE JERONIMO CAMPOMANES
675. MANALO JOSE MARI ORTIZ
676. MANANDEG MARIA LOURDES PAGUNURAN
677. MANANGHAYA JOHN HERBERT SAMANIEGO
678. MANAPAT ELNISON VALERO
679. MANAPOL MIKHAIL LEOLARDO SANTOS
680. MANAS MICHAEL MARLVIN NICANOR
681. MANCAO GEORGE LUCERO
682. MAÑEBOG EMILIO CASTILLO
683. MAÑEJE ROLAND JONAS
684. MANGALI STEVENSON BULALIT
685. MANGOSING RODERICK ALMERON
686. MANIKANG VLADIMER ARCONCEL
687. MANLUSOC RICARDO JR PINEDA
688. MANUEL ELLAND REY MANGAOANG
689. MANUEL JEMER IAN MIGUEL
690. MANUEL CRISPIN JR IDDIH
691. MANZANO EDMUND GOZE
692. MAQUIDA WELLARD STA ANA
693. MAQUILING MALBERT JAMITO
694. MARALLI DEJOME EMPEDRAD
695. MARAYAG JOEY LITO SYLIM
696. MARBELLA ILDEFONSO VERANO
697. MARCIAL EDWIN JR VIVAS
698. MARCOS DARWIN PANGA
699. MARDO HENRY JEFF RAMIREZ
700. MARIANO BERNACION JR SAN JUAN
701. MARIANO RONNIE DEL ROSARIO
702. MARILAG ROVINA SALVADOR
703. MARISTELA VERNON POLICARPIO
704. MARQUEZ RONNIE FUSILERO
705. MARQUEZ RABIE JOHN MORALES
706. MARTAL EPHRAIM RAYMUNDO
707. MARTINEZ DEO ROJAS
708. MARTINEZ JOE PATRICK ABARADO
709. MARZAN IGOR IVAN IDIA
710. MASANGKAY BRYAN VILLEGAS
711. MASEDMAN GARY DIS-IW
712. MASING LOURDINE JOYCE TAPLIN
713. MASLANG DINDO JEFF LIWANEN
714. MATA LEONIDES VENTURA
715. MATALINES NINO NORMAN ACHONDO
716. MATEO EDWIN JR CASABAR
717. MATI IBRAHIM PANLAQUE
718. MAUSING CARYL JOYCE SIBUG
719. MAYAO LARRY LONGE
720. MAYRENA EMMANUEL FLORES
721. MAZO BARD CAESAR POSAS
722. MAZO LEO CAESAR IAN PAJE
723. MEDINA LAWRENCE DENORA
724. MEJIA JOEL GARCIA
725. MELCHOR RUBELYN GONZALES
726. MENDEZ ROGELIO JR CAAYA
727. MENDOZA JEFFERSON MANDIGMA
728. MENDOZA MARIO JR CABRAL
729. MENDOZA VIKTOR IMMANUEL LIM
730. MENDOZA FERDINAND DAPASEN
731. MENDOZA JEFFREY GERONIMO
732. MERCADO JETHRO ALBISO
733. MINERO DARLENE LOBRIGO
734. MISA JOSELITO CANILLO
735. MOGAO DARWIN PIO PAKITOL
736. MOJICA ARES BILUGAN
737. MOLDEZ JESSIE MAR BENAOJAN
738. MOLINA MICHAEL IRAOLA
739. MONGADO JUANITO PERCOL
740. MONTEALEGRE PAUL VINCENT BAUTISTA
741. MONTEJO SHERWIN REY QUIJANO
742. MONTENEGRO HERBERT PABRUA
743. MORADA JULIUS MILLENA
744. MORADOS JAYRYL TUBLE
745. MORALES CONNERY ANDRES
746. MORALES CONFUCIUS JOHN ANDRES
747. MORALES NORMAN MONTANO
748. MORILLO GABRIEL TAPAGAYO
749. MOTENO DOMINIC CRIS BARCELONA
750. MOULIC KRIS LAWRENCE COLLADO
751. MUNDA JOVANE CALICDAN
752. NAHONG MARY ROSE CABUENAS
753. NABOR EDMUNDO RELATO
754. NACAR CHRISTIAN NEL ASTO
755. NACNAC LOURD ANGEL DEL PRADO
756. NAMORO FRANCIS HULGUIN
757. NANGPUHAN JULIAN II BELANGON
758. NAPE AUDY AMAR
759. NARAG PETER CALIMAG
760. NARAG FRANCISCO JR BASSIG
761. NARCISO BAHRAIN SARIO
762. NARDO TJ RAMIREZ
763. NARZABAL NEIL ERIC RELATADO
764. NAVARRO CHRISTOPHER DELOS REYES
765. NAVARRO JAYSON MERCADO
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767. NAVARRO NOEL A
768. NELVIS EMERSON PETITE
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783. OCUMEN ARIEL DAN
784. OLAIVAR DOMINIQUE BANAC
785. OLANDAG GENNER WONG
786. OLOROSISIMO ARNEL BERNARDO
787. OMANDAM JUNIEDY PATOY
788. OMAY LORVEN MOJADO
789. OPLEDA JOSHUA MICHAEL VILLAFUERTE
790. ORCULLO JAYPEE FORTUITO
791. ORDILLO DANIEL CLAVERO
792. OROPEL VLADIMIR BAN ABECIA
793. OROPILLA CHRISTINE PILAR
794. PABAYA ARMIDA ETRATA
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796. PACHECO RESTER MIKKI PALAGANAS
797. PACIO ALDRIN CAYATOC
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799. PADAYHAG JIM LUBGUBAN
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858. PUGUON ELVIN D
859. PUMOS-AN JOSHUA EWOS
860. PUNZALAN JORDAN MERCADO
861. PURCIA CATHERINE CLEOFAS
862. PUTI MARIO ARTEMIO SOTTO
863. QUIAO DENNY LLOYD APLENA
864. QUIAO RANDOLF RAMO
865. QUILANG MELVIN REY NACALABAN
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867. QUINTOS JAYSON GALZOTE
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871. RAIZ GLENN KARL DAGSA
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898. REYES RAYMOND SALAZAR
899. REYES ALVIN BUTZ VENES
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903. RIMAS NONYLEN VILLA
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951. SANTIAGO CARLITO BABALCON
952. SANTOS JOSE MARIA VILLANUEVA
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957. SEMBRANO WARNY FABROA
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969. SINO CRUZ JEROE REFUGIA
970. SOBERANO ERIC MARCOS DUMO
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972. SOLANO RAFAEL LLANETA
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974. SOMERA ALVIN PAPARON
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1018. TUGUIC JINKIE BANYA-AO
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Beltran aide bares 'bribe' offers by Meralco lawyer

By Ronnel W. Domingo

"WE were wined and dined. We were offered favors."

All to convince Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran to pay his electricity bill in full.

This was what Beltran's chief of staff Rudy Corro said when asked to elaborate on the congressman's accusations that the Manila Electric Co. had tried to "fix" (bribe) him.

"Meralco's general counsel Camilo Quiason and former Energy Regulatory Board chair Rex Tantionco asked for a meeting with Ka Bel in a Quezon City restaurant three months ago," Corro said.

Beltran's confidante said that Quiason, a former Justice of the Supreme Court, himself offered the solon "whatever help he needed, like money to fully pay Beltran's bill."

Corro added: "Quiason also offered to provide Ka Bel with lawyers if he needed legal services. He even offered resources for Ka Bel's public relations needs."

He said Beltran had agreed to meet with the Meralco representatives hoping that there could be a compromise on his refusal to pay the utility's purchased power adjustment (PPA) fee.

The labor leader had refused to pay the PPA since April when he joined consumer groups protesting the allegedly illegal charge.

In a telephone interview, Meralco vice president Elpi Cuna denied Corro's statements.

"There are no such offers," Cuna said. "We would not go down to that level."

On Tuesday, Meralco had finally cut services to Beltran's household after the latter failed to settle his bills for the sixth month.

In a statement, Beltran said he again visited to the Meralco Commonwealth branch to offer to pay about P9,000 worth of accumulated electricy basic charges and the required reconnection fee of P20.

He said he brought with him a jar where he kept all the money that Meralco rejected, and which he did not intend to spend on other things.

"I will continually offer to pay the basic charge, but I can never stand paying for the PPA—not for electricity that my family did not even use," he said.

DOJ backs Gloria on calamity funds

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JUSTICE department yesterday issued a legal opinion backing up President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to tap calamity funds for anti-terrorism projects.

The opinion, signed on Tuesday by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, said there was "nothing wrong" with the President's move last Monday to authorize city mayors to use their calamity funds to purchase anti-terrorist equipment.

A legal opinion coming from the DOJ, being the government's official legal adviser, is a strong endorsement that may be contested only in the courts. But before the funds could be used, Perez said, the law requires that the President should declare the country, or the local government areas affected, as being in a state of calamity.

Each mayor's calamity fund consists of five percent of revenue from regular sources, set aside by Republic Act 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991.

In an interview yesterday, Perez said the Justice department considered terrorism a "man-made calamity." The legal opinion de- fined "calamity" as "an unforeseen event (not) limited to force majeure or (circumstances) outside of human intervention."

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Probe of bonded warehouses sought

IMPORTED goods and raw materials are being diverted from customs bonded warehouses to the domestic market, costing the government hundreds of millions in unpaid taxes while time posing unfair competition to local manufacturers.

For this reason, Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. has filed a resolution asking the House committee on good government to investigate the practice.

Taxes and duties on imported goods coming in through the bonded warehouses are not immediately imposed, but only upon release to non-exempt entities, Pichay said.

In case these goods are transferred to tax-exempt entities such as the PEZA, Clark Special Economic Zone or Subic Freeport Economic Zone, the goods remain tax-free, he added.

Transfer on paper

Pichay pointed out that in many instances, the transfer to tax-free zones is only on paper, as the imported products find their way into the local market.

In the same resolution, he also urged the investigation of three fertilizer importers that were found to have faked their certificates of eligibility, allowing them to enjoy customs duty exemptions on their importations through the Ports of San Fernando, La Union; Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo.

Pichay said collusion between customs officials and importers has allowed this anomalous situation to continue unabated, thus causing revenue leaks to the detriment of the country's economy.

Business groups and Department of Trade and Industry officials last year recommended that 700 of 1,000 bonded warehouses be closed in order to stop smuggling and unfair trade practices.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 24, 2002
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 3:14-21
Gospel: Lk 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "I have come to bring fire upon the earth and how I wish it were already kindled; but I have a baptism to undergo and what anguish I feel until it is over!

Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on, in one house five will be divided; three against two, and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Commentary

From its very beginning, life, any life, has some kind of struggle. One has to exert violence to grow, to mature. Any change is painful. God's Kingdom takes up also changes and conversion in our personal and social life. These changes are not pleasant to many people; they become hard and difficult. But this is the only way to reach freedom and the life that Jesus offers us in the Father's Kingdom. In his encyclical "Centesimus Annus" John Paul II says that we do not confront anybody, we only fight for justice. But sometimes it happens that such conflict is inevitable with those opposing it.

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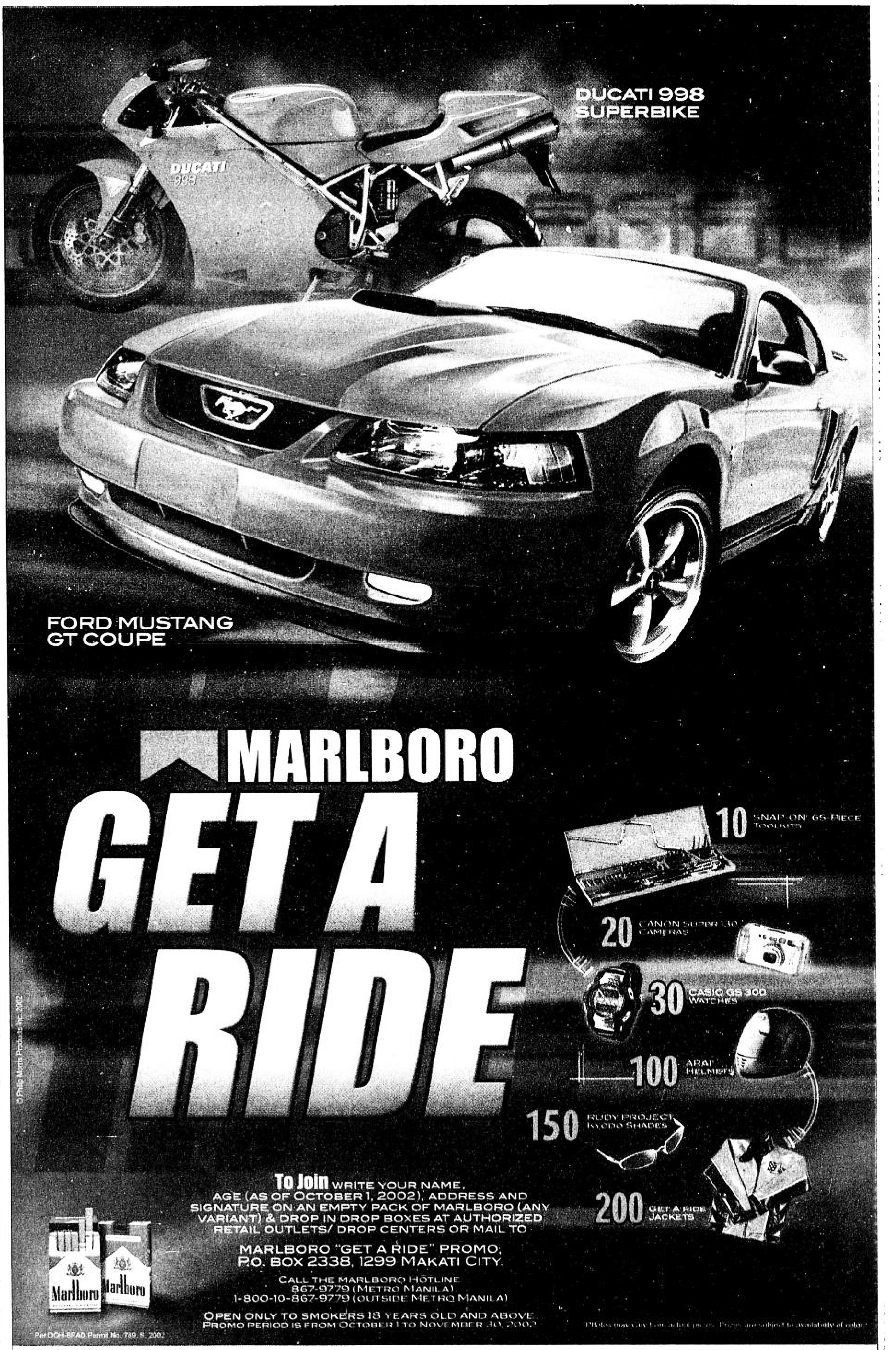
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Gross misconduct—Gross misconduct is such misconduct which affects a public officer's performance of his duties as such officer, and not only that which affects his character as a private individual. For gross misconduct to warrant dismissal from the service, there must be reliable evidence showing that the judicial acts complained of were corrupt or inspired by an intention to violate the law. It must (1) be serious, important, momentary, and not trifling; (2) imply wrongful intention and not mere error of judgment; and (3) have a direct relation to and be connected with the performance of his official duties. In the case at bar, the acts complained of may not be strictly connected with the performance of respondent official's duties, and this cannot be legally considered as gross misconduct. However, his acts violate Canon 2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct which mandates that "a judge should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities." It is an established norm that a judge's official conduct and his personal behavior, not only upon the bench and in the performance of official duties, but also in his everyday life, must be beyond reproach." [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Puno, Campilan v. Campilan, Jr., A. M. No. MTJ-96-1100, April 24, 2002] DIGEST BY R. B. VERA



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War vs poverty gets bulk of Pagcor take

THE WAR against poverty gets the lion's share of the last month's record breaking P1.85-billion income by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., the state-run gaming firm said yesterday.

Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino said in a statement that P1.13 billion, or 61.44 percent of the amount would go directly to government coffers and mandated beneficiaries. In particular, he said, the President's Social Fund can continue to provide robust support to President Macapagal-Arroyo's socio-civic and charitable projects.

Genuino said it was "next to impossible" to achieve another record-breaking performance this year after Pagcor's expansion program was downsized in compliance with the President's wishes. "But we did again, vindicating the President's belief that if we do an excellent job we can beat the odds," Genuino said.

Highest in 16 years

The September earnings, which surpassed the previous high of P1.81 billion set last May, is also the highest in its 16-year history, Pagcor said.

The record take raised Pagcor's gross earnings to P4.95 billion, up 13.1 percent from the P13.02 billion it posted in the same period last year, it said.

Ms Macapagal recently announced in a radio interview that the government was launching a four-pronged program aimed at winning the fight against poverty as she asked the different government departments and agencies like Pagcor to unite in meeting the minimum basic needs of the poor: educa tion, food, shelter, job and medicine.

Genuino said he sees two areas in the President's economic agenda in which Pagcor's resources can be put to good use. One is in the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through the President's "Isang Bayan, Isang Prudukto, Isang Milyong Piso" Program. The other, he said, is in boosting the country's tourism industry.

"We have actively supported President Arroyo's pro-poor programs. In the same manner, we will support the President's efforts to develop the SMEs as the next logical step. We used to give fish to the poor, now the President wants to teach them how to fish," Genuino added

Tourism project

He said it is also the priority of the President to transform Makati and the Roxas Boulevard into primary tourist destinations. He pointed out that the alignment of Pagcor's 120-hectare flagship project to the government's program of raising much-needed revenue via tourism is under way.

At the centerpiece of Pagcor's tourism program is the multibillion-dollar Theme Park Manila along the coastal bay. A major component of the project is the construction of roads, mass transit system and waste management system.

"We have lined up foreign investors who will infuse billions of dollars into the project," Genuino said, "These investments will benefit hundreds of thousands of our poor countrymen via good paying jobs."

Another survey, another graft move against Roco, another coincidence?

By Carlito Pablo

ROCO

POE

WAS it another coincidence? Or is Malacañang reacting to surveys showing how popular Raul Roco is with voters by tightening the screws on him?

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission was set to transmit to the Palace its findings in the graft complaint filed against Roco by his former subordinates in the Department of Education—at the same time that the latest Ibon survey showing Roco as still the man to beat for President in 2004 was released.

The new survey showed that if the presidential election were held today in Metro Manila, Roco would win it hands down. Actor Fernando Poe Jr. came in second, while President Macapagal-Arroyo trailed behind at third.

This was the second time an Ibon survey and Roco's popularity figured in a Palace action, or reaction.

On Aug. 2, a nationwide Ibon survey showed that Roco was the choice of voters for president in 2004, ahead of deposed President Joseph Estrada who came in second and Ms Macapagal who placed third.

The day before that survey was reported by media, the DepEd union filed a complaint against Roco before Malacañang accusing him of, among other things, printing posters showing his likeness at the department's expense.

One week later, on Aug. 8, the Palace officially transmitted the union's complaint to the PAGC.

Claiming machinations against him by the Palace, Roco resigned as DepEd secretary on Aug. 13. Ms Macapagal accepted his resignation on Aug. 16.

In a telephone interview yesterday, PAGC chair Dario Rama said his agency's report to the President runs more than 60 pages.

Rama declined to reveal the contents of the report. "I would be violating the confidentiality of PAGC reports," he said.

As provided in the PAGC's mandate under Executive Order No. 12, the agency can only recommend to the President whether to impose sanctions on presidential appointees who are the subject of complaints.

Rama said the PAGC is an apolitical agency and only weighs cases based on the evidence.

"We do not concern ourselves with politics," Rama said. "If a case is transmitted to us, we treat it just like any other case."

Malacañang preferred not to discuss the latest Ibon survey.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said politics is "so out of place in these times," alluding to the bombings and the economic problems besetting the country at present.

"Should we talk about this at this time?" Capco asked over Angel Radio. "It's better to discuss those things (elections) once the candidates have filed their certificates of candidacy."

In a separate interview, presidential political adviser Jose Ma. Rufino accused Ibon of actually being in (*"pakawala ni"*) Roco's corner and, therefore, having no credibility. He would not elaborate, however.

But Rufino said he had seen other surveys, which he did not identify, that did not even show Roco as a contender for the presidency.

"The names of Angara and Lacson were there but there was no Roco," said Rufino, referring to opposition Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson.

Japanese trader, wife shot dead in Batangas

A JAPANESE businessman was shot dead in front of his house in Tanauan, Batangas, police said yesterday.

Kazuaki Hirakawa, 56, of northern Japan's Hokkaido island, died from multiple gunshot wounds when an unidentified assailant shot him and his 53-year-old common-law wife Petronila Masungsong, who was critically injured in the attack Monday night.

The couple had just returned home when they were sprayed with bullets, according to a report by senior police officer Antonio Molinar.

Another senior police officer, Lucito Cedillo, said the couple had lived in Tanauan for about four years. They have a daughter, who was not in the house when the attack took place, he added.

Police recovered six empty shells for an M-14 rifle and two lead fragments.

The motive for the attack is still unknown, Cedillo said. *AP*

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Senators fear 2003 budget won't pass

By Rocky Nazareno

SENATE finance committee chair Manuel Villar yesterday said that there may be little time left for the Senate to pass the proposed 2003 national budget.

Villar said there was a delay on the part of Malacañang to transmit the P804.2-billion budget to the House of Representatives.

"We may not be able to pass it this year,'" Villar told Senate reporters.

The 2003 national budget is currently being deliberated upon at the House which is supposed to pass it on Third Reading before Congress goes on recess on Thursday.

"There's no way (the House) could pass the budget within the week,'" Villar said.

If Congress fails to pass the budget at the end of the year, the government would have to operate in January using the 2002 national budget.

But Villar pointed out that there was not much difference between the 2002 and 2003 national budgets. Next year's proposed appropriations is only P34.4 billion higher.

"Take away the IRA (internal revenue allocation) and the debt service, the difference would only be about P4 billion. So there would not be any major adjustments," Villar said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon agreed with Villar that the Senate may not be able to pass the budget at the end of the year.

Drilon pointed out that the 2003 budget was submitted by President Macapagal-Arroyo only on Aug. 22 although this is still within the constitutional deadline.

With the current timetable, Drilon estimated that the Senate would receive the House-approved version on the first week of December.

"So I don't think that we will be able, given the schedules that I see, to have a budget by Jan. 1," he said.

Drilon cited the situation in late 2000 when the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada derailed the deliberations on the 2001 budget.

"(That is why) the 2001 budget was the 2000 budget," he said.

Tutors, students hit solon for delay in budget

MILITANT students and teachers have criticized a congressman for allegedly delaying passage of next year's P104.4-billion proposed education budget.

National Union of Students in the Philippines (NUSP) president Raymond Palatino also questioned proposed cuts in the 2003 budget of the Department of Education, accusing the Macapagal administration of prioritizing foreign debt servicing over education and other basic social services.

Palatino was reacting to reports that Rep. Jesli Lapus of Tarlac suspended committee deliberations on the proposed 2003 education budget last week after he questioned the inclusion of processing fees for teachers' salary loans.

Lapus, vice chair of the House appropriations committee headed by Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. of Camarines Sur, is a known critic of the education department's annual budget and has been credited with slashing to P90 billion the department's proposed P103-billion budget for 2002.

Leaders of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) under Benjamin Valbuena said Lapus "has allegedly been hounding the (education) budget every year, always focusing on loan service fees," which they said "have not been found anomalous or irregular by Malacañang."

The education department and other government agencies collect a two-percent service fee for the processing of their employees' payroll deduction for the repayment of salary loans with private lending companies.

Lapus was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

"Although the education department would get the largest allocation among other departments, it is not because the government prioritizes education, but because (the education department) has the widest bureaucracy compared to other government agencies," Palatino said.

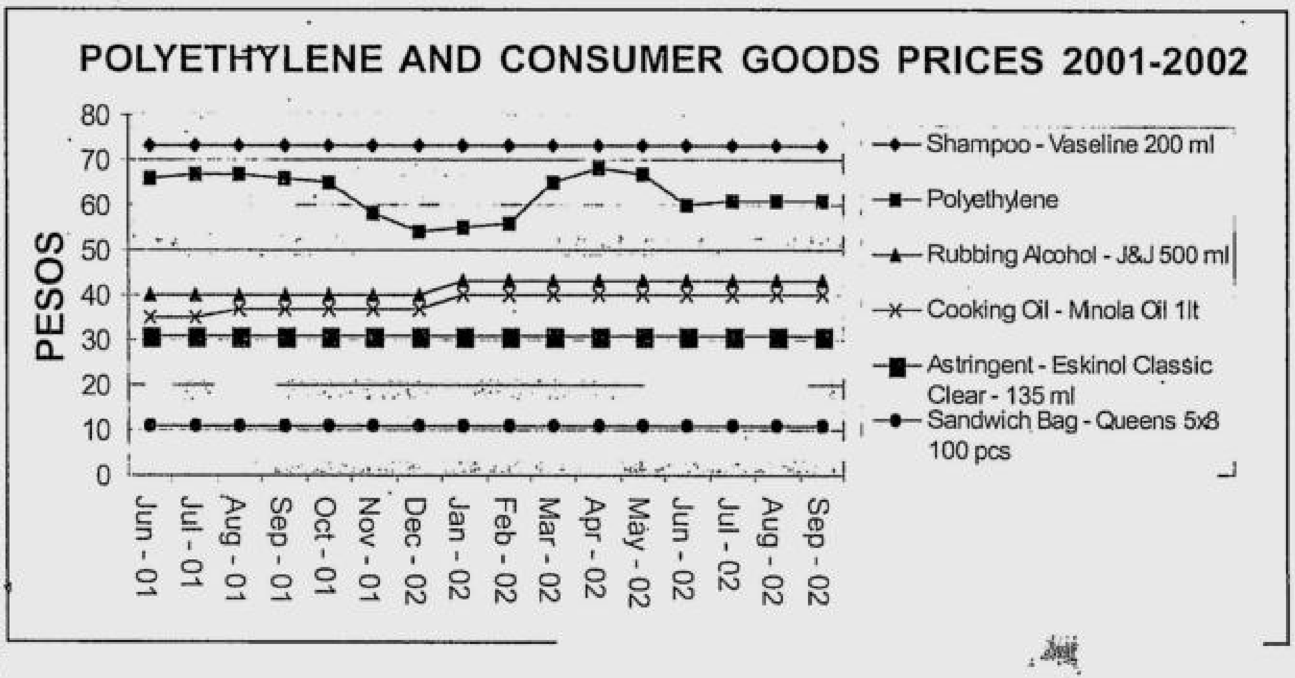
Education department records show there are more than half a million public school teachers in the country today, aside from thousands of non-teaching personnel, whose salaries account for more than 93 percent of the department's budget.

Truth in Packaging

Walang Plastikan!

FOUR plastic associations and two purported consumer organizations published recently a full page ad that misleads consumers to believe that prices of consumer goods will increase if AFTA-CEPT tariffs on polymer resins will be ***maintained*** at 15%. Nothing can be farther from the truth.

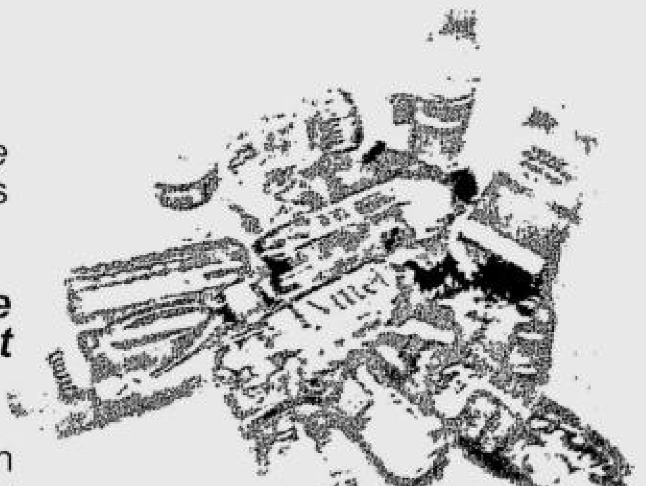
The prices of consumer goods are unaffected by the price of polymer resins. In fact, even after prices of local polymers either dropped or increased within June 2001 to September 2002, prices of consumer goods remained the same. This is because resin is not a significant cost of consumer goods!



Walang linlangan!

THAT the ad is intended to mislead is further shown by the fact that it cites bottled water as an example of why consumers will be paying more if the tariff rates for polymers are maintained. The ad trumpets that the plastic bottle comprises a whopping 80% of the production cost of bottled water.

But the raw material for plastic water bottles- *polyethylene terephthalate* (PET)- is not produced locally. PET is imported with a tariff of already 3%. It is even not included in the petrochemical industry's petition to maintain tariffs!



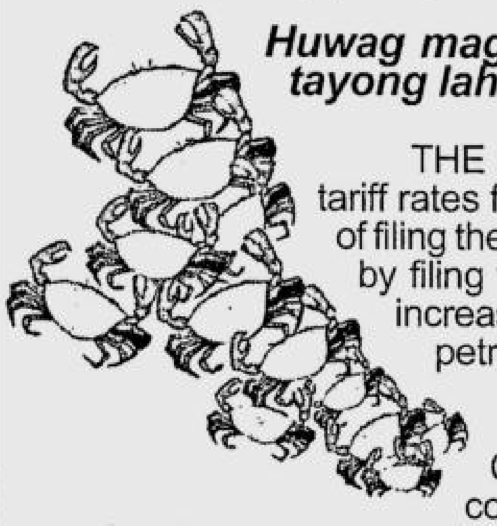
Let us look at the bigger picture. Let us not be like the frog at the bottom of the well that sees only a small portion of the sky, yet believing seeing the universe.

Using bottled water as a case in point too, we could say that dependency on imported materials for our packaging materials will indeed result in having our consumers paying more for the containers rather than the contents of the products they buy. It is expected that by 2005, the regional excess capacity for polymers will disappear. This means that imported packaging materials could cost more in the long run.

Huwag sana nating gamitin ang kapakanan ng mga mamimili para lamang sa pansariling interes.

THE ad, in fact, advocates import dependence on packaging raw materials, even to the point of sacrificing the local petrochemical industry, with $1 billion in investments and state of the art technology, in the name of consumer interests.

Such a 'packaging' has become all too familiar. And it is deceptive, for both industries can still survive and flourish only if those in the plastics industry help themselves. There are solutions only if honest to goodness plastic manufacturers are not diverted from pursuing their own trade remedies.



Huwag mag-ugaling talangka! Sa halip, tulungan ang sarili, magtulungan at magkaisa tayong lahat!

THE ad further complains that the source of the plastic industry's problem is that the AFTA-CEPT tariff rates for plastics have been reduced to 5% while polymers may be maintained at 15%. But instead of filing their own application to increase AFTA-CEPT tariff rates on plastics, they refuse to help themselves by filing their own application. Not only do they leave it to the petrochemical sector to petition for the increase of their plastic tariff lines but they use their resources to lobby against and undermine the petrochemical industry's petition. How can government even consider their plight?

It is an illusion to believe that plastics can stand alone in the face of global competition. Competing foreign products will be coming from countries that have integrated petrochemical complexes. Not only do the downstream sectors of these countries enjoy the benefits of a local petrochemical industry such as unsecured credit, technical services, just-in-time delivery and other services from the midstream sector, they also enjoy contract pricing from the midstream that insulates them from wide fluctuations in times of regional supply imbalances.

Without a midstream sector, Philippine plastic fabricators will be vulnerable to regional spot market pricing that will never allow them to be competitive with imported plastic products whose resins inputs at contract pricing can be as much as 40% to 50% less than spot market prices.

A bigger battle also awaits both sectors. In January 2004, MFN tariffs on plastics and petrochem that are now both at 15% will be unilaterally slashed to 5%. This means more plastic product imports from non-AFTA countries such as China, Taiwan, and South Korea will enter the Philippines at increased quantities.

The time to cast away the 'crab mentality' and start helping one another is now! We are all inextricably linked. We cannot exist without the other. We appeal to all the sectors and stakeholders of the petrochemical and plastics industries to unite and confront their problems, rather than to destroy the other.

KAPAG NAKATAYA ANG KAPAKANAN NG BAYAN,
SA TOTOO LANG, WALANG PLASTIKAN!

Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines (APMP)

ADVT.

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL *Founding Chairman*

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OPINION

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Bush's fantasy

EDITORIAL

THE UNITED States has run into determined French opposition to its tough draft resolution in the United Nations Security Council demanding that Iraq dismantle its weapons of mass destruction. The draft resolution seeks to give the Security Council a larger role in reviewing the success of UN arms inspectors and making the use of force less automatic, but the French, Chinese and Russians are sticking to the formula of giving the inspectors first a chance to examine suspected Iraqi weapons installations and only if Iraq fails to disarm will another resolution be issued authorizing military action.

France's two-stage formula has become the rallying point against the US war resolution, and its opposition has enabled Paris to regain its big-power role in the Security Council, which is reminiscent of President Charles de Gaulle's maverick balancing act that blunted American Cold War policies against the former Soviet Union. President Jacques Chirac is serving as a thorn on the side of the United States to remind Washington that Europe is not an American satellite.

With France's assertion of continental autonomy, US President George W. Bush has been handed the lesson that although the United States is the only remaining superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it cannot repeat its Cold War role as the international gendarme protecting democracy and the world from threats defined by Washington alone.

The French have given Washington the message that it has to consult its Atlantic allies on what to do with Iraq before sending in the troops. Washington has modified its demand with a new draft that tones down the tough phrase allowing the council to authorize "all necessary means" against Iraq if UN inspectors were blocked from inspecting suspected sites of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons facilities. UN inspectors are not going back to Iraq without a new resolution defining the scope of their work. The United States is now willing to soften the term to a more vague threat of "consequences" in the event of Iraqi violations.

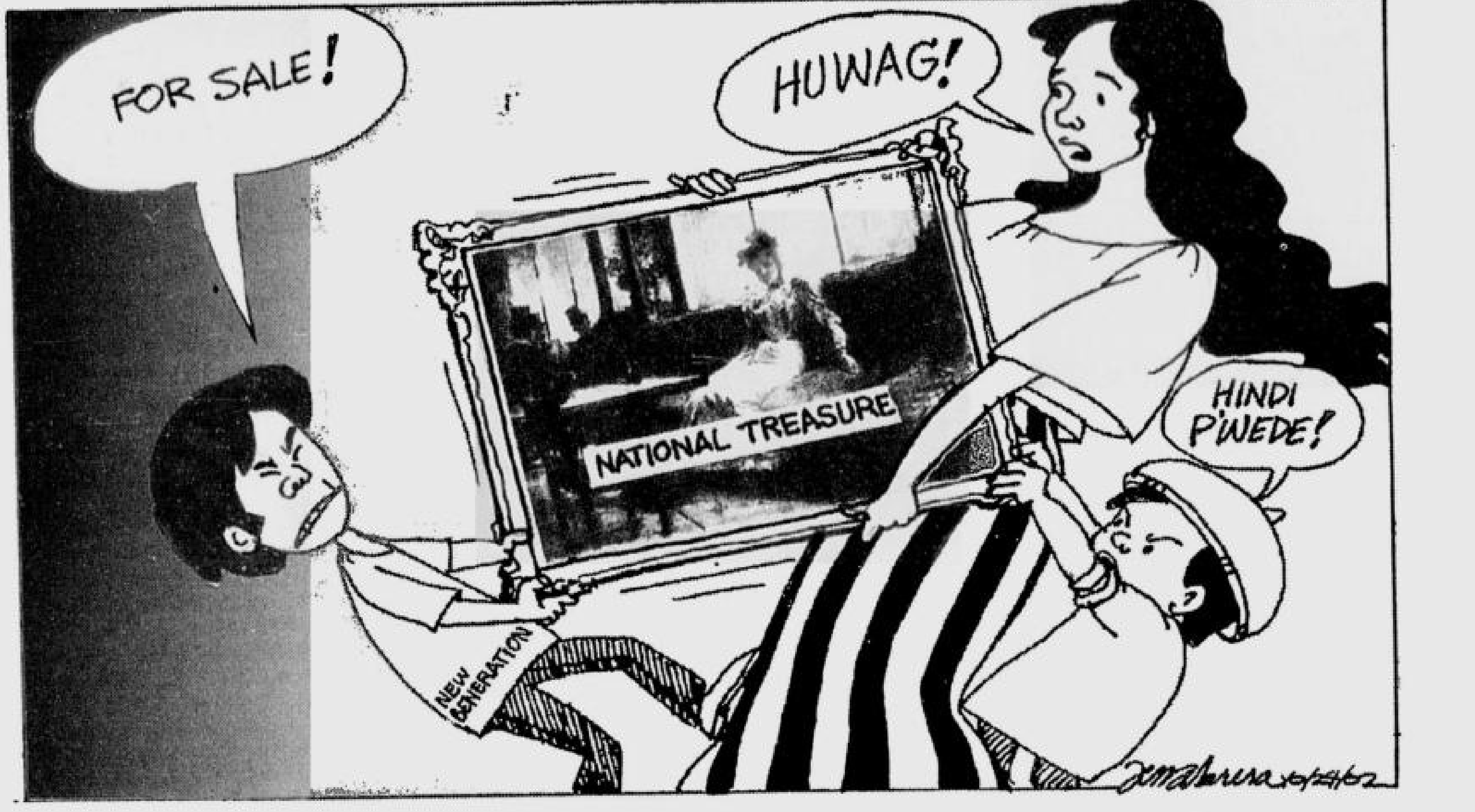
The opposition to the tough US formula, which is backed by Great Britain, has created division inside the Bush administration. Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice have said that full disarmament by Iraq would sufficiently meet US demands without effecting "regime change." This position contradicts the bellicose stance of the hard-liners, led by Vice President Richard Cheney and Defense Secretary Ronald Rumsfeld.

President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic has added weight to the opposition to the war-like posture of Bush by telling the latter that there was no evidence to confirm reports that Mohammed Atta, the suspected leader of the Sept. 11 attacks, met with an Iraqi intelligence officer in Prague before the attacks. Bush has tried to link Iraq to the attacks on US targets but has failed to introduce clear evidence of it.

In seeking regime change in Baghdad, Bush is reviving the method that failed to stem the communist revolution in Vietnam: the coup d'état against President Ngo Dinh Diem in South Vietnam. The coup, instigated by the CIA, did not lead to the installation of a stronger leadership in Saigon and failed to halt the communist offensive that liberated South Vietnam in 1975.

In the effort to make an attack on Iraq acceptable to its allies and to broaden the anti-Iraq coalition, the United States has drawn three scenarios. The first is the assumption that Iraq's war machine would be annihilated in a few weeks; the second is that the swift military collapse would result in the overthrow of Saddam Hussein; and the third is that the United States would install a democratic regime to replace Saddam. While the first assumption of a swift military success is feasible, it ignores the possibility of Iraq unleashing its nuclear, biological or chemical weapons against Israel. The installation of a democratic system following Saddam's fall is even more problematic. Iraq has no culture of democracy to serve as foundation for a democratic regime, and there are no significant opposition groups that can take control of Iraq in a post-Saddam era.

These scenarios have all the elements of fantasy. Even so, the United States needs allies to embark on a war with Iraq. Unfortunately for Bush, most of his transatlantic allies are not willing to share his fantasy.


FOR SALE!
HUWAG!
NATIONAL TREASURE
HINDI P'WEDE!
NEW GENERATION
Jess Abrera 10/24/02

Domingo: Collado can be released on bail

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from yesterday)

IN THE SAME letter to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, Bankwise chair Dante Ang, the "private personal publicist" of President Macapagal-Arroyo, asked the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation "to hold in abeyance the scheduled deportation of Mr. Ramon Collado," president of Prama Foundation, the association of foreign retirees living here. Ang said Collado should be kept here because he and his bank would sue him for libel after he had accused Bankwise of having illegally transferred funds from Prama Foundation deposits to the account of Seed Capital, majority owner of the bank.

Actually, that request was unnecessary (unless it was for public consumption) because Domingo had already said last Monday that although the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA), which besides Bankwise is in conflict with Collado, had requested the BID "to conduct deportation proceedings immediately," it was not true that his deportation was already scheduled.

"This is because deportation proceedings against him are (still) ongoing," she said.

She also said that Collado can be released on bail, but she does not understand why his lawyer has not filed any petition for bail. "Instead, he wants to talk to me," she said. "What are we going to talk about? I cannot do anything—*baka ma*-anti-graft *pa ako*—unless there is a formal legal petition."

Domingo explained that Collado was arrested because his Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SSRV) No. 183, issued on Jan. 19, 1989, was cancelled. He failed to secure an Alien Employment Permit (AEP) from the Department of Labor and Employment although he holds an executive/supervisory position in Prama, she said. It was the PLRA, through officer in charge Erlina P. Lozada, who requested for the cancellation of Collado's visa, she added.

Collado's arrest and immediate deportation proceedings were also requested by the PLRA, she said. (Collado has been without an AEP since 1989 but they discovered it only now, after he exposed the loss of the retirees money?—NHC)

Obviously, some very influential people want Collado out of the country very quickly so he can't expose theft on a grand scale. In legal parlance: plunder.

Domingo also said that it was she who told suspended general manager/CEO Vernette Umali-Paco to resign "because of graft." (Paco, a lawyer, just took her oath of office as general counsel of the Securities and Exchange Commission.)

For her part, Paco said that she has already faced 14 cases, most of which had been dismissed, and that Erlinda P. Lozada was one of the PLRA fellow officials who executed an affidavit to support a complaint of contempt against her.

All of them, however, are one in condemning Collado. It seems that Collado (whom I have never met and therefore cannot judge) has a personality problem that will never win him a popularity contest. He became president of the Prama Foundation not through election by the members but because he appointed himself. In fact, there has never been an election in the Prama Foundation. The four members of Prama's board of trustees were appointed by Collado.

The retirees, although they are paying P2,000 a year in membership fees, have no say in the affairs of Prama. Its finances are not audited and there are no financial statements. Only the five of them know where the millions of pesos in the Prama Foundation are going.

Collado claims to have charity projects but members said these are two small and too few to have cost much.

I have received some calls from foreign retirees who denounced the compulsory nature of membership in Prama. They said that they don't want to be members of Prama because they only pay fees but get no benefits in return.

How much money does the Prama Foundation have?

Paco has this answer: "PLRA and Prama Foundation get one-half percent management fee each from banks. PLRA earned P300 million. So Prama must have earned the same amount."

A lot of money for doing almost nothing. And that is what the fight is all about. As always, it is a battle over money.

* * *

This e-mail on yesterday's column and the full-page advertisements of Dante Ang and Bankwise is interesting:

"The advertisement of Dante Ang and Bankwise was obviously meant to make the public believe that the transfers of funds from Prama Foundation deposits to Seed Capital was legal and legitimate. Very few people are expected to scrutinize and analyze the contents of the letters and the advertisement. People are expected to say: '*Ah ganoon pala naman, eh.* So its okay.'

"Notice how the letters of Prama's finance officer Rica P. Mipana were set in very small, hardly readable type. So the people cannot read them or even bother to try to read them.

"Clever ploy, but not good enough. Thanks to you, the deceit has been exposed."

The sender does not want his identity revealed.

(It could be just bad English or a mistaken interpretation.—NHC)

Shaken, not stirred

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE TRULY mind-boggling scene in "Dr. No," at least from the perspective of the early 1960s, is the one where James Bond waits in the dark for the professor who put a tarantula in his bed but failed to murder him in his sleep. The fellow comes back to finish the job, but Bond is prepared for him. The professor steals through his door, and pumps his bed full of lead. Bond then switches off the light and aiming a gun at him with a nasty-looking silencer, tells him to drop his gun.

The guy does so, but as Bond is interrogating him—while flicking a lighter to a cigarette and talking through the side of his mouth, a gesture that would be widely imitated but never equaled, let alone surpassed—he goes for his gun and fires. He draws a blank, he has run out of bullets. Bond calmly pops a few shots into him. The sound is all the more startling for being muted, a momentary furious whistling of wind through a keyhole. The professor jerks violently with each shot and falls to the floor.

Terence Young, the director, would later recall that they had problems getting around the censors with that one. No movie had done that before. It wasn't "sporting" to shoot (or in swashbucklers, run a blade though) an unarmed man. The normal thing would have been for the hero to beat the villain in the draw. Not this one. Young and company eventually won their argument, in the main because the censors, like nearly everyone in the movie industry at the time, thought it was a minor inconvenience and the movie would swiftly fall into obscurity and be mercifully forgotten.

Mercifully, or unmercifully, it did not. It went on to spawn a multibillion franchise and mark its 40th anniversary this month. And its end is nowhere in sight, at least financially. Though it probably signals the beginning of the end that the latest Austin Powers flick, "Goldmember," has outgrossed—in more ways than one—the last few Bond movies by a mile. Finances aside, I myself think the end happened way back in the mid-1960s, after the movie that "Goldmember" satirizes (such as any Austin Powers movie can be called that, I have not seen one, even in HBO, in its entirety), which is "Goldfinger."

I was a kid when I saw "Dr. No," and was completely bowled over by the thing. I had a classmate who turned into an instant and passionate fan, collecting Bond memorabilia with the zealousness of a devotee. We used to say that he had invented a new religion, with James Bond as the one true god and the Beatles as the saints in heaven (yes, he worshipped them too). I was only several notches less pious, and largely because I was not as well endowed with earthly riches as he. For me, of course, as for others of that generation, there would only be one James Bond, and that was Sean Connery. That at least has turned out to be based on more than nostalgia.

For me, moreover—though this one has the benefit of hindsight—there were only three real Bond films, "Dr. No," which began it all (to use the mythical language of the equally awesome "Lord of the Rings"), "From Russia with Love," which drove the formidable Simone de Beauvoir to write an entire essay on it, and "Goldfinger," vastly inferior to the two, but which still retained a good deal of their grit and wit.

It isn't true that Bond was indestructible; he died precisely at the very moment he became indestructible. Or he disappeared at the precise moment the Bond movies got bigger. When in lieu of imagination, they supplied gadget, in lieu of "Bond, James Bond," they supplied "Mouse, Mickey Mouse." After Connery, Bond would become even more a cartoon character.

Like most things in life, James Bond did not get killed by villainous men with silencers. He got killed by respectable men with ledgers. He wasn't destroyed by imaginative death traps, he was destroyed by unimaginative monetary ones. Connery had every reason to want to leave the thing and get on with his life.

My own favorite remains "Dr. No." It's one of those cases where the original is best. It was "Dr. No" that sparked a revolution in popular movies the way the Beatles did in popular music. That scene of Bond executing the professor was a defining moment, a hint of moral ambivalence in hitherto black-and-white (in more ways than one) thrillers, one that would soon spawn Clint Eastwood's antihero in Sergio Leone's "spaghetti westerns." "Dr. No" stamped an indelible character in the public mind. Only Sherlock Holmes has probably leaped out of a page more forcefully to take on an autonomous personality, a living, breathing, presence in our midst. Only Sherlock Holmes has an entire biography unto himself.

Of course, in hindsight also, all those things the women's movement said about the Bond movies were true. You can't altogether always pass off characters with names like "Pussy Galore" as overflowing irreverence, or cheekiness (no pun intended).

And of course most of the things the activists said about them were true as well. Though their enemy was not the Soviet Union but a group sufficiently mysteriously named "Smersh," they remained in many ways an ideological spawn of the Cold War, romanticizing as they did the very clandestine organizations, among them the CIA, that activists were fulminating against. This was after all the decade of revolution, the decade of protest, the decade of the Vietnam War.

But there was an unmistakable romance to the James Bond movies, a bubbly innocence, a mythical transcendence that reality could never completely weigh down. Which the first three Bond movies at least have retained to this day.

Each time I watch them, I find them rousing fun.

On the whole though, best taken medium dry, shaken, not stirred.

Absentee Voting Bill off to shaky start

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE TWO chambers of Congress recently passed on third and final reading the Absentee Voting Bill that will allow millions of Filipinos overseas to vote for the first time in the 2004 elections. The House bill, termed by Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin the "intelligent version," limits the voting to the two top officials of the land, while the Senate allows in addition voting for the senators and party-list representatives.

Almost everyone in Congress seems happy about the passage of this bill, but the overseas Pinoys are probably happier as this may be the answer to their long-standing clamor for representation through the ballot. Speaker Jose de Venecia, one of its principal authors, who had filed a similar bill back in 1995, called it the "perfect gift" and "the least the nation can offer to reciprocate the OFWs' sacrifices and heroism in helping shore up the country's economy during various times of crisis." Sen. John Osmeña called it a "landmark legislation."

* * *

But with the bill's approval comes the more difficult and tougher part: reconciling in the bicameral conference committee the House and Senate versions, which have major differences, and the actual implementation of the bill in 19 voting centers located in 16 countries around the world.

I have spoken with officials in various RP embassies, and they are uniformly daunted by, and frankly afraid, of the gigantic task ahead of them. This is understandable, for the embassies and consulates will have to handle it. The job is daunting indeed, especially when one considers that overseas Filipinos will be voting in a presidential election, which is always hotly contested. Even without this, a presidential election has always been marred by allegations of cheating, intimidation, unexplained delays, etc. Throw in now the OFW vote and we can have a "perfect gift" that could be a classic in imperfection, or a legislation that could be a landmark in suspicion, confusion, etc.

* * *

To begin with, there is the sheer immensity of the task. The Filipino diaspora is definitely among the biggest in world's history, with Pinoys now found in 49 countries and numbering about 7.41 million. But it's not only the size but also the various levels of classification that make it difficult to make hard and fast rules on participation.

The Coalition of OFWs breaks down the total as of December 2001 to 3.05 million OFWs, 2.74 million immigrants or those with permanent residence, and 1.62 million with "irregular status," meaning those without documents, working contracts, etc. The biggest concentration of OFWs is in Saudi Arabia, where there are nearly 900,000 or 30 percent, followed by Hong Kong with 171,485, and Japan with 138,522. Of the immigrants, 1.9 million or more than 70 percent, are in the United States.

The DFA, on the other hand, adds to the nearly 900,000 in Saudi some 18,000 "irregulars." Italy has nearly 70,000 Pinoys with "temporary" status and 78,000 irregulars. In Spain, the DFA says, there are 33,643 permanent Filipino residents, over 5,000 temporary and over 4,000 irregular.

* * *

The many variations in our OFWs' status are reflected in the two versions of the bill. The House bill bestows the right to vote upon all "qualified" overseas Pinoys who have not renounced their citizenship. Thus, immigrants (or green card holders in the US) or permanent residents abroad, who are recognized as such in their host country, as well as those who have become foreign citizens are disqualified from voting. On the other hand, the Senate version gives the right to vote to immigrants as well as the 1.3 million "undocumented" Filipinos.

* * *

Personally I am against enfranchising immigrants, as this would allow them to enjoy the best of both worlds. The right to vote should be restricted to Filipinos working temporarily abroad, the real OFWs. The problem is that until now our government doesn't know exactly how many Pinoys are abroad and what the status of each one of them is, as evidenced by the big number of "irregulars" and "undocumented." Moreover, many host countries appear as confused as ours about their status. Thus, one can imagine the difficulty of assigning political responsibility to our OFWs, to put it mildly.

* * *

Then there's the actual voting in centers to be set up in 16 countries. Sen. Joker Arroyo, the lone dissenter in the Senate, is upset that the Senate bill allows registration and voting of overseas Filipinos by mail. (The House bill requires them to show up personally.) Arroyo says this "faceless" way of voting prevents verification of the correct identity and existence of a voter. I can understand his point. If even right here in the Philippines a lot of manipulation happens, how much more in foreign countries, especially among some Pinoy groups who can manufacture fake documents?

There's also the problem of Filipinos having to travel to voting centers that's far from their workplace. Recognizing this, the House realistically allots nine days for the entire voting exercise, setting the cut-off date on the day after election in RP. The problem with the delayed voting is that it could give rise to hocus-pocus or suspicions of fraud.

* * *

But having cited all these weaknesses in the bill, the fact remains that, as the Speaker put it, "we have to start somewhere." More importantly, our OFWs want it badly. Despite all the difficulties, overseas voter turnout is expected to reach 3.3 million in 2004—a very substantial swing vote, by any analysis. A congressional oversight committee will review the first overseas vote so that flaws can be spotted and appropriate corrections made.

Rights and life

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BANGKOK—With literally just enough time to drop my bags and sort out my dirty laundry from a trip to Beijing, I found myself winging my way to this city the other day to take part in the Southeast Asian Workshop on Strategies to Promote Access to Emergency Contraception. The workshop is sponsored by the Pacific Institute for Women's Health, a US-based non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of women and girls around the world.

I find it heartening that the institute bases its work on the principle that "women's rights are human rights, and women's health is a human right." And it is in this context that it has undertaken a project with other women's organizations called "Emergency Contraception as a Woman's Right."

"It is every woman's right to decide if and when to have children, and this decision influences almost every aspect of her life," the institute says in its annual report for 2000. "Emergency contraception (EC) is a crucial tool for women wanting to avoid or delay pregnancy."

The institute launched the project in Mexico and Nicaragua in 1999, emphasizing through training and advocacy that "EC is an emergency option that should be used as a back-up to other contraceptive methods, especially condoms, which offer protection against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV." Today, the institute works with women's groups in Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico and Nicaragua.

The Southeast Asian workshop is designed "not only to develop a better understanding of emergency contraception among the participants, but more importantly to develop critical analyses of the different political and cultural climates in Southeast Asia that promote or inhibit access to EC."

* * *

BETTER understanding of emergency contraception—how it works and its impact on the health and well-being of women—is crucial if women are to gain full rights over their reproductive and productive lives.

In the Philippines, the "delisting" or banning of Postinor, the brand name of a pill used for EC, touched off a firestorm of controversy when it was revealed that the decision was arrived at without consulting the people with the biggest stake in the issue: women, particularly those at risk of sexual violence. And the government, through the Department of Health, justified its unilateral action by saying Postinor was an "abortifacient," a substance that causes an abortion, and therefore it was violative of the constitutional protection accorded to the unborn.

But is emergency contraception the same as abortion?

Says the institute's materials: "Emergency contraception, also known as 'the morning-after pill,' and medical abortion, also known as 'the abortion pill,' are frequently mistaken for one another, despite the fact that the former is a contraceptive and the latter is an abortifacient. Untangling the confusion between the two methods—while promoting access to both—has been and will continue to be a Pacific Institute priority."

* * *

I MUST admit, with much beating of breast and hanging of head, that in previous columns I had indeed confused one for the other. Or rather, had taken the action of one to be the same action of the other. Let's clear the decks now.

"EC is a female-controlled contraceptive method that prevents pregnancy if taken within 72 hours (three days) of sexual intercourse," says the institute. "EC has been available since the development of the contraceptive pill but remained out of reach of most women for nearly 30 years. Today, family planning opponents still try to obscure the issue, misconstruing EC as a form of abortion. But because emergency contraception prevents pregnancy, estimates indicate that widespread use of EC could prevent 1.7 million unintended pregnancies in the United States each year, greatly reducing the need for abortion."

On the other hand, explains the institute's materials, "medical abortion…is a non-surgical method of terminating an early pregnancy. The two primary methods of medical abortion in the United States are the use of the newly FDA-approved mifepristone (formerly called RU-486), and the legal, 'off-label' use of methotrexate. Each of these is used in conjunction with misoprostol, which stimulates expulsion of the fertilized egg. Despite the safe use of medical abortion by hundreds of thousands of women worldwide, anti-choice groups in the United States have erected countless roadblocks that have thwarted American women's access to this method. Access to medical abortion is particularly needed due to the precipitous decline in surgical abortion providers."

* * *

THE INSTITUTE has a project in Indonesia, working to improve access to emergency contraception for young women workers on Batam Island, close to Singapore. "With scores of factories, the area has become a magnet for young, unmarried migrant workers," a briefing paper explains, "(and the institute) is working with local partner organizations to ensure that the island's most vulnerable groups—including youth and commercial sex workers—are given the reproductive health services they need."

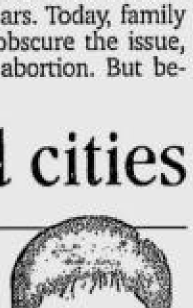
Though abortion is illegal in Indonesia, approximately one million women each year seek abortions (the figure is placed at around 400,000 in the Philippines), and close to 20,000 women die annually as a result of unsafe abortions. "To reduce the devastating consequences of unsafe abortion," says the institute, "access to contraceptive services must be improved."

In my view, promoting access to emergency contraception, and to contraception in general, is in fact work that not only protects women's rights but promotes life as well.

Threatened cities

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



LOST in the din of bomb threats, bomb blasts, the cries of victims and the outrage of the terrorists and the terrorized is the World Development Report (WDR) 2003 recently released by the World Bank.

The WDR, WB officials say, is the most widely studied report of the WB. A team from the WB office in Washington, D.C. was busy traveling across Asia and some places in the Philippines recently to explain its contents.

WDR 2003 is on "Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World: Transforming Institutions, Growth and Quality of Life." The one that came out two years ago was titled "Attacking Poverty."

WDR 2003 is touted to be the WB's contribution to an ongoing international dialogue on sustainable development. It should complement the recent "Joburg" to-do. It examines the interactions between maintaining growth, reducing poverty, ensuring social harmony and protecting the environment. It stresses that development strategies focused on the accumulation of physical capital alone can have harmful social and environmental consequences. Therefore, sustaining growth over the long term requires that social and environmental outcomes be addressed in growth strategies and investment programs.

How well they put it. Would that this were so in real life. I read such things with my other eye looking out of the window, so to speak, to remind me that what is on the printed page is a thousand dreams away from what my other eye beholds.

The 230-page WDR 2003 tackles sustainability as an evolving framework, and presents ways to measure it. It points to the role of institutions as coordinators of human behavior and as catalysts for change. I found interesting the chapter on improving livelihoods on fragile lands and the chapter on cities. Case studies are presented. Cities are taking center stage these days because they are where sustainable development is going to be really tested to its limits. Mega-cities are sprouting all over the world, many with uncontrolled population growth due to migration. Will there be enough for everyone?

More mega-cities will emerge in the next decade or so, the WB nervously predicts. And these are not necessarily cities that gleam in the sun, but more like Batman's Gotham perhaps, where waste, pollution, congestion and crime threaten the nerve center.

Cities are in the limelight these days—not because of yet another burning issue on sustainable development but because they are the target of terrorist attacks. These supposed centers of growth and development are under siege from within and without. How much can they take?

The terror factor is, of course, not tackled in the WDR on sustainable development. Terror in cities seems like another problem altogether. But one cannot be wrong in saying that terror does have a bearing on how cities behave, how the industries that spur them to growth react. It does have an impact on the so-called three pillars of sustainability: the economic, environmental and social. A city in constant state of terror would be hard put sustaining its activities. Not all cities can cope like New York did after 9/11.

Urban centers, the WDR says, can stimulate the development of rural areas by providing markets. Subcontracting activities can expand non-farm rural employment. They facilitate society's transformations in knowledge, institutions and economic activity.

If cities and towns are to realize the promise of a better life for poor migrants from the rural areas, cities need stronger institutions to provide wide access to assets and to balance interests.

WDR 2003 lists some key urban development challenges. The first is anticipating and providing for urban growth, that is, guiding new settlements to prevent future slums. By 2030, urban populations in developing countries are expected to double. The required massive new investment in the capital stock of cities will be critical to environmental outcomes. Urban land-use patterns, right-of-way requirements and building standards will affect energy and water use. The WDR cites a program in Lima, Peru aimed at preventing the growth of squatters by anticipating demand.

The poor must be empowered through access to assets. This means security of tenure or "protection from involuntary removal from land or residence except through due legal process." This gives citizens a greater stake in urban society and an incentive to work with local officials to obtain services. The WDR cites the inclusive policies in Rio de Janeiro's [illegible] home of the labor force that con[illegible] of the city's population.

Cities must [illegible] urban investment and job creation to take care of its residents and new arrivals. As a rule, the WDR points out, larger urban areas are the most productive since they allow for greater specialization in labor use, better matching of skills and jobs and a wider array of choices for workers and of ancillary services for producers. As long as this greater productivity outweighs higher costs for land, labor, housing and other necessities, the city can thrive.

Informed constituencies and participatory planning are vital in solving urban problems, it goes without saying.

One of the reactors during the WDR 2003 presentation happily noted "a change in the language" of the report, pointing out, as an example, the study that shows the decreasing level of lead in blood samples in the United States and the phasing out of leaded gasoline in Vietnam.

More human faces, human voices and true-to-life cases have enlivened the WDR 2003, making it more interesting to read, a credible place to take cues from. Whether or not you like the WB.

* * *

Comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Strangers

YOUNG BLOOD

Ysobel

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I ONCE knew a man, and he once knew me. When I first got to know him, I thought he was the coolest guy in the world.

My earliest memory of him dates back to Christmas Eve, 1984. He brought a bottle of wine for our Christmas dinner. We shared a glass for I could not finish my own. While we drank, we took Polaroid pictures of each other: me with my toothy grin, him with his tight smile and soulful eyes. Up until now that memory remains fresh in my mind. I can still taste the wine.

The next day he was gone. When I woke up, he just wasn't there anymore.

Like a bubble pricked. No, more like the plastic balloon you used to blow. You have a wonderful feeling as you see it grow bigger before your eyes—and then it goes pop! The precious balloon you so carefully made is gone.

I didn't ask any questions. I supposed that things just happened that way. He had to go, far, far away. He had to work somewhere. It's for the best, he said. Okay. No questions asked.

Though he wasn't here, it always felt as if he were. We constantly and religiously exchanged letters. I had bought all those air-mail envelopes and kept them in my small study table, along with some pretty stationery. I kept them there so I could always write to him whenever I felt like it.

"I love you," I would always write at the end of my letters. "I love you," he would always reply. And he'd send me stuff: shoes, pink tops, Betamax tapes of my favorite movies, audio tapes of my favorite artists. Oh, how I loved him, and how he loved me.

Five years passed before I saw him again. He was older and had a receding hairline, but still he had that tight smile and those soulful eyes.

Now we can see each other more often, he said. And my heart leaped with joy.

He would come see me at least once a week—Friday nights usually. We would rent a movie. He would cook something. And we would watch the movie together.

Then the weekly visits became twice monthly. But we still saw each other, and that was fine with me. We would sing Beatles songs, with me playing the guitar, and him doing the vocals. Sometimes we would sing together, and he would do the second voice, but then I would always get lost along the way. And we would laugh about it, and do the song again until we got it perfect.

Oh, yeah, he took me to the prom. Everyone gaped at us as we danced. We made a great couple.

And then his visits became a monthly thing. He would call and ask how I was. And I would tell him how my day went. I would tell him how I couldn't get rid of this zit on my chin or how I had finally perfected the Beatles' "Across the Universe" on my guitar.

Then I left home for the university. I knew I wouldn't see him so often anymore, but I did not lose hope. I knew he would always look for ways to find me, to see me.

Every six months, he did. We were together for an hour every six months. That was all he could spare for me.

It became a yearly thing.

And then, no more. We had lost contact.

I missed him so much. There were nights that I would toss in my bed, sleepless. And I would just cry. I would hum a Beatles tune or two in a desperate attempt to comfort myself. I would imagine that in a few minutes, someone would knock at my door, and it would be him, carrying a bottle of wine, perhaps. And then we would talk, watch a movie, eat, sing.

But he never came again.

One day, I received a call from him. The moment I heard his voice, rage took over me. I was so angry with him. He had forgotten me.

He tried to protest, saying he had not. There were just so many things happening in his life. Problems.

I wouldn't listen. I was crying and screaming at him. I told him he could never see me again, except on my wedding day.

And I cried. And he cried.

And he never called me again.

It's been almost two years. I often think of him. I wonder where he is, how he is. I wonder if he thinks of me.

Recently I got some news about him. Another woman. Failed business. Broken home. Almost reduced to a bum.

It breaks my heart.

What have you done with your life, Papa? Tell me. Come over. We can drink wine. Perhaps I can prepare pasta. We can talk while watching a movie. I know, "Dazed and Confused," or "Almost Famous," perhaps. Yeah, you'd like that. After that we can sing songs.

Oh, Papa. You will see how I've grown. Not entirely knowledgeable about the ways of the world yet, but I've gone through a lot and I have you to thank for it.

Oh, and I'm still that same stubborn little girl you knew. That is why I haven't given up on you. My heart is still open. Can you not see? It always has been, no matter how many times you have hurt me.

We don't have to be strangers. After all, I once knew you, and you once knew me.

Ysobel, 23, is a writer, animal lover and musician. She is a BA English Studies graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

THEY SAID

Lawyer's dream

"The judiciary is already [illegible] want to cap my career by being a member [illegible] Court. It is a dream any member of the [illegible] would [illegible] for."

—Adolf Azcuna, when asked why he should be appointed to the Supreme Court

No apology needed

"Why are we going to apologize for the humanitarian act of bringing to the attention of Malaysian authorities the rape that was committed?"

—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, rejecting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's demand that the Philippines apologize for accusing Malaysian policemen of raping a Filipino child who turned out to be a Malaysian national

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How can one know a robber?

AT 7:10 a.m. last Oct. 6, I took an FX taxi to school.

Hold-ups are somewhat like rape. Afterwards, you think of how you must have called the attack on yourself. You recall how well you were dressed up on that day or how naive you were in choosing which ride to take. You remember how you had carefully chosen to take a properly licensed untinted taxi in the hope of reducing the probability of the driver helping hide the crime behind dark drapes, heavily tinted windows and the like.

That day I lost a pricey wallet, some cash, my ATM card and important identification cards. But I lost a far more precious thing: an already depleted sense of security in the streets of Manila. No place is safe anymore.

I know one UP Manila student who got held up inside Robinson's Place in Ermita. I heard that UST students get held up right on their campus.

When you have a curved and extremely rusty knife pointed at you, you only have one thought: pain and tetanus. Then you regret that you left your cell phone at home that day because you are afraid they might stab you for failing to produce it.

You walk to school in a daze, hyperventilating. Then you burst into tears at the sight of a friend.

I tell my story to friends and for several minutes they just stare into space. I can almost see on their faces a paradigm shift. It can happen to anybody and to them, too.

After the initial terror, they exchange suggestions on how to avoid getting into a similar ordeal.

A writer said that he can sum up what he knows about life in two words: it just "goes on." It does. And so today when I go to school I take a jeepney and try to be more careful.

The thing is, how does one know the potential criminals? I've stared two of them in the face. And they looked like you and me.

—ALI LIM,
University of the Philippines,
Padre Faura, Manila

Customs collector welcomes rice smuggling probe

THIS refers to the column of Ramon Tulfo last Oct. 12. I find it necessary to correct the wrong information Tulfo has been spreading.

Tulfo has been falsely accusing me of a lot of things, including being ungrateful to Wee Dee Ping, a.k.a. Le Peng Wee, since I announced that I was going to file smuggling charges against the latter who appears to be Tulfo's biggest benefactor. I do not owe anything to Wee. Even assuming that I do, as district collector of customs, my loyalty is first and foremost to the government of the Republic of the Philippines. I just did my duty under the law.

Wee is one of the accused in two criminal cases filed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Customs. These cases are now pending with the regional trial court of Zamboanga City. Recently, Tulfo figured in many newspaper reports when he allegedly "fixed" Wee's case at the Department of Justice. After Justice Secretary Hernando Perez ordered the withdrawal of the charges against Wee a few days after Tulfo made a scene at the DOJ, the Bureau of Customs filed a timely motion for reconsideration.

Since I announced that I was going to file charges against Wee, I have been receiving death threats. Wee also threatened to have me removed from office. He has been attempting to destroy me and has resorted to character assassination.

We welcome a House or Senate inquiry into what Tulfo claimed to be rice smuggling by the Greek vessel MV Spiros. I will request the investigating body to issue a subpoena for Tulfo's appearance so that he will be compelled to divulge the source of the false information.

To set the record straight, MV Spiros was carrying Indian marine salt from Tuticorin, India, consigned to Artemis Salt Corp. It unloaded a portion of its cargoes in Cagayan de Oro City on Aug. 30, 2002 and arrived in Zamboanga City on Sept. 12. A portion of its cargo was discharged in Zamboanga City, and it proceeded to Cebu City.

A legal dispute between the owner of the vessel and the consignee arose. The consignee sued the vessel owner and demanded P10 million in damages. Judge Paulita Villarante of the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court issued a writ of attachment against the vessel and ordered me to hold its departure.

On Oct. 5, at about 3 a.m., while the vessel was in anchorage due to congestion at the Port of Zamboanga City, Spiros left without clearance from the BOC and the Philippine Ports Authority. Although duties and taxes due to the Port of Zamboanga were fully paid, the vessel had not paid to the Philippine Ports Authority the anchorage charges amounting to almost P2 million.

When I learned about its departure on Oct. 5, I immediately requested the assistance of the Philippine Coast Guard, the Maritime Police and the Philippine Navy to search for the vessel. All of these agencies immediately responded. When the search proved futile, I requested the Philippine Air Force to help in the search.

Later, a Philippine Navy plane sighted the Spiros. Task Group Stingray of the Philippine Navy immediately apprehended the vessel. Upon request of the sheriff who earlier served the writ of attachment in Zamboanga City, Task Group Stingray escorted the vessel to Cebu City. The vessel was turned over to the Cebu customs authorities.

—LOURDES V. MANGAOANG,
district collector,
Port of Zamboanga

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LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

20 squatter families and a colonel

THE INABILITY of the government authorities to dismantle the illegal structures put up by a "community" of 20 families inside Fort Bonifacio is shameful. The fact that a military colonel is heading this "community" makes the situation more appalling because this goes to show how spineless certain officials can be. They cannot stand up to a lawbreaker in uniform.

These squatters have benefited from use of a 2,190-square meter area in Fort Bonifacio for too long. It would no longer be a violation of their human rights if the government finally decides to do what it wants with its property.

The 30-day period given to squatters to dismantle their structures lapsed last Oct. 18. The government should now move these squatters out of the property and transfer them to resettlement areas. It time to use an iron hand in dealing with these squatters.

—PETE V. DE MAYO,
Fort Bonifacio, West Rembo,
Makati City

Vacationists can't be ambassadors

THIS letter is addressed to Al Mendoza who wrote about me in his column last Oct. 22.

Yes I am that old. And you, too, will soon be using a senior citizen's discount card to enjoy your favorite *pulutan* and drinks at your favorite watering hole.

Back in 1958 when I was a member of the national team to the 3rd Asian Games in Tokyo (I have a bronze medal to prove it), we called those who got eliminated in the preliminary rounds "*bakasyonistas*." We did not have the gall to call them "ambassadors of goodwill." Too elitist.

Your column is an example of argumentum ad hominem. If you can't refute the guy's sound logic, hit him below the belt. People who resort to it are already considered losers even before the debate begins.

You did not refute the two issues I raised: (a) the fielding by sports officials of mediocre athletes who failed to meet qualifying standards to the 14th Asian Games, and (b) our propensity to rely on Divine Providence for success and when we fail to take refuge in *consuelo de bobo*, an example of which was your calling the early losers ambassadors of goodwill.

I am not against losers. Efren Bata was not a loser for failing to win in the 8-ball competition. He lost because he was not entered in the 9-ball event, a move which, according to one of your columnists, prompted the Taiwanese to say the Filipinos were "stupid." The losers, to my mind, are the athletes who, despite failing to meet the qualifying standards, were made to serve as the reason for mindless sports officials to make the trip to Busan. Athletes who lack the talent and the long preparation for competition have no business competing. Those we sent to Busan fall under the first category. They are losers and should not be tolerated.

I also believe in miracles. When I was jobless after by brief employment in the Philippine Sports Commission, I survived through countless miracles generously bestowed upon me by Divine Providence. However, do you really believe that a miracle would have saved our baseball, softball, sepak takraw teams, our gymnasts, swimmers, fencers and others when even your colleagues in the profession believe they would have been better off staying at home and watching TV, and sparing themselves the ignominy of defeat? Would a miracle have enabled Efren Bata to win the 8-ball competition? In sports where excellence is the criterion of success, winning is 99 percent perspiration and one percent prayer.

If I place a "Ph.D." after my name, can you blame me? Of the 82 million Filipinos, I am the only one who can proudly sport that title in the discipline of physical education and sports.

And as for your claim that I have not done anything for Philippine sports, I believe I can produce at least a thousand people who believe otherwise. You see, I am a teacher. Ask my former students in the boondocks who are struggling to coach young boys and girls to become sports participants and competitors. Without them, you would still be writing about Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros and Caloy Loyzaga.

—APARICIO H. MEQUI, Ph.D.,
former chair, Philippine Sports
Commission

Learning to be Asian

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

RECENTLY I asked a group of about 20 freshmen anthropology students what they were taking for their foreign language requirement. Nearly all the students were taking European languages (Spanish, French or Italian), with the exception of three who had opted for Bahasa Indonesia.

I suspect that university-wide, the enrollment for Asian language classes is very low. Note that no one from that class was taking Chinese. It's sad, but there's little interest among Filipinos not just in Asian languages but in Asian culture in general. One reason may be our geographical isolation, an archipelago cut off from mainland Asia, but to a large extent, it's also because of our American colonial heritage.

Our view of the world is shaped by America, and the Americans are not particularly noted for an openness to the world. Most Americans speak only English, and are notorious for being the most ethnocentric of Westerners when they travel to other countries, often to the extent of violating local cultural traditions.

As little brown Americans, we often take on this American ethnocentrism. Ask young Filipinos what foreign country they would choose if they could have a free travel package and I am sure most will name the United States and Disneyland and Hollywood.

The irony then is that Asia is probably perceived to be more distant and exotic for Filipinos than Mother America. Those who do have opportunities to visit will come home complaining that there was nothing to see ("except temples, and they all looked alike") and that the food was awful ("too spicy"), and that no one spoke English. Bangkok occasionally gets rave reviews, but mainly because of the shopping for imitation brand-name clothes and watches.

We pay for this ethnocentrism. While other Southeast Asian countries are strengthening political, economic and cultural ties with each other, we continue to cling to Mother America's apron strings, content with begging for more financial assistance, or for a larger share of their import quotas.

Our lack of awareness of Asian cultures means we run greater risks as we navigate the regional geopolitical maze. Our response to the so-called global war on terror, blindly toeing the Bush line, is one example. Our China policy is another, the policy being nothing more than a photocopy of that of the United States.

Geopolitics and foreign policy aside, there's another important reason for building closer ties with our neighbors, and this is understanding ourselves. "Asian" culture is a wonderfully chaotic product of centuries of mixing as people moved around, trading, proselytizing, inter-marrying, and understanding these origins can be important.

Tagalog, for example, is a mix, with many words from old Javanese and Malay languages, which in turn were intermediaries for Indian languages and even Arabic. The words we borrowed give us clues to the type of contact we had with Malay and Indonesian societies. Many words are related to religion and philosophy, suggesting our ancestors probably engaged neighboring cultures in rather deep discussions about the gods, life, the human condition.

You can learn all that from reading scholarly books and journals, but it's more fun when you actually learn about similarities and differences in Asian languages and cultures through direct contact with other cultures, either by visiting or meeting people from other countries.

A meal in another country trains your taste buds to figure out how familiar foods are completely transformed because of the way it's cooked in another culture. On a less mundane level, a visit to another country is important for understanding other peoples' faiths. There's something arrogant in the way we like to proclaim ourselves as "the only Christian nation in Asia." Talking with other Asians about Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, helps us appreciate the wisdom to be found in all religions.

Some of our private schools used to (or they may still do) organize student trips to Southeast Asian countries. It's a luxury, admittedly, but not really as expensive as people think it might be. I'm seeing ads in the INQUIRER these days for package tours to Thailand for something like $200, including hotel accommodations. Even with travel tax thrown in, that's almost about what you'd spend going to Davao.

If you do have friends overseas, I'd suggest you just go for cheap air tickets and throw away the package tours, which can be rip-offs with tour guides herding you into tourist traps.

Where do you make friends? I know people who have made friends through the Internet but that can be risky. You'd be safer meeting them when they visit (quite a few Asians still come to the Philippines to study), or you might meet them in their home countries during conferences, or on business trips.

Last week I was in China for a regional conference and noticed that some of the Filipino delegates had brought their teenage children. Then I realized some of my Thai and Indian friends had done the same thing. Yet no one had introduced the kids to each other. I pulled Poo, the nephew of a Thai professor, over to meet Rosa and Richard and other Filipino kids. When I left them, they were chattering away, language obviously not quite the barrier we think it to be.

A few months back I was having dinner with several Asians and right next to me were two women—one Indian and one Pakistani—engaged in animated conversation. I asked what language they were using and the Indian replied, "I'm using Hindi and she's using Urdu and they're similar enough for us to understand each other."

Then I remembered once, too, a breakfast at a conference where I shared a table with Indonesians and Malaysians. They speak the same language with very minor variations but when I joined the table, they were able to open the conversation to accommodate me, with words flying around in English, Tagalog, Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia.

As we learn to be Asian, we'll find there's more to all this than language.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

We, concerned citizens of Bicol, hereby manifest our earnest support for the reinstatement of Director Eleno U. Colinares, Jr. as Regional Director of DPWH, Region V. Under his leadership, Bicol Region had flourished. Infrastructure projects perceived to bring progress and ease to Bicolanos were realized due to his perseverance in establishing linkages with the right authorities. An example of which is the Construction of Yawa Bridge in Albay province, which was programmed for completion in four-year's time, but through the initiative of Director Colinares, it was completed in a year's time. The corresponding detour road for said project, complete with a landscape, is at present still very useful not only to Bicolanos but also to tourists since the over-all appearance of the whole structures enhances the view of the famous Mayon Volcano.

Furthermore, Director Colinares had placed Region V number one in terms of accomplishments nationwide in CY 1999 and 2000 and among the top three Regional Offices in performance in CY 2001. If Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, really aims for the development and progress of the country, particularly the Bicol Region, we believe that Director Eleno U. Colinares, Jr. is the right man to do the job.

Very truly yours,

CONCERNED BICOLANOS

ADVT

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

BALI BOMBING SUSPECT

Terror tag for Jemaah Islamiah sought

MANILA—The United States and Australia will ask the United Nations to declare Jemaah Islamiah a terrorist group by recalling its alleged involvement in bombings across Southeast Asia and a plan to crash a plane into Singapore's airport, according to a confidential report.

The two countries hope an international campaign to root out and cut off financial and other support to the Southeast Asia-based group would follow a UN declaration that it is an al-Qaida ally, said a Philippine official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

US and Australian officials have circulated a confidential report on Jemaah Islamiah's history, key leaders and terrorist plots and strikes in the last two years to support a petition asking a UN Security Council committee to brand the group a terror organization, said the Philippine official.

In Canberra, Australian Prime Minister John Howard said he was confident the United Nations would support his call to declare Jemaah Islamiah a terrorist group, on mounting evidence it played a role in the Bali bomb attack on Oct. 12 that killed more than 180 people, many of them Australians.

"I will be staggered if the United Nations refuses to list this (group) as a terrorist organization," Howard told Brisbane radio station 4BC on Wednesday.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, a staunch ally of the US-led global war on terrorism, supports the petition, said her press secretary, Ignacio Bunye.

The US State Department was expected to add Jemaah Islamiah to its own list of terror groups on Wednesday, making it a crime to contribute funds to it and bar members from entering the United States.

The group, which aims to create an Islamic state encompassing Indonesia, Malaysia and the southern Philippines, "has cells operating throughout Southeast Asia," said the two-page report relayed by Australia to the Philippine government, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

"JI's aim of replacing democratically elected governments by unlawful means poses a serious threat to individual countries and the peace and security" of the region, it said.

While it detailed the group's history and several attacks and planned attacks, it added: "Much information that would further support this designation cannot be made public."

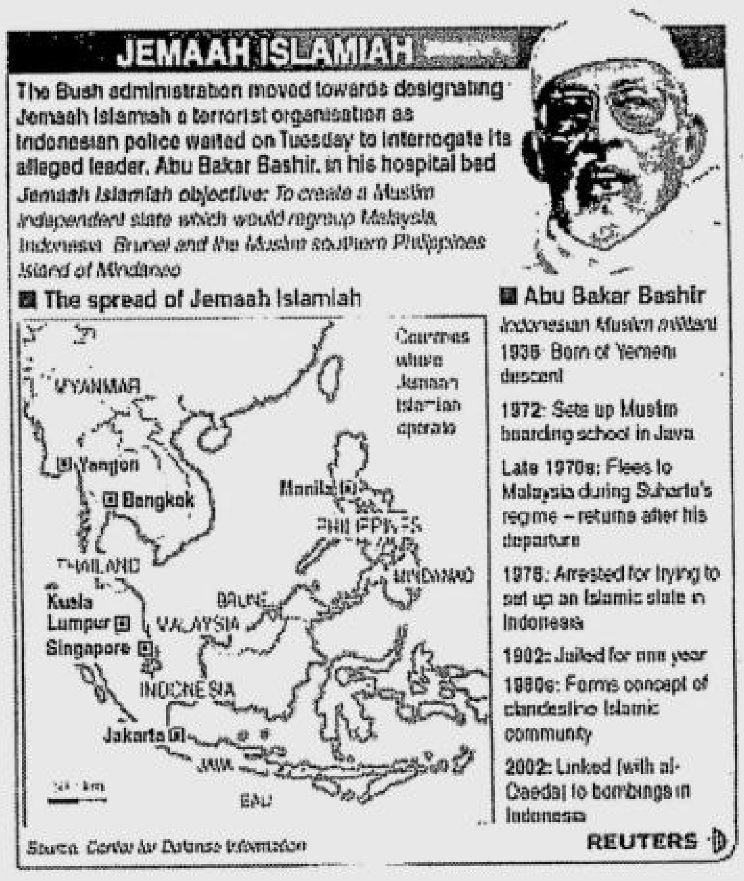
The report named an Indonesian cleric, Abu Bakar Bashir, as one of Jemaah Islamiyah's top leaders, along with compatriots Fathur Rohman al Ghozi and Riduan bin Isamuddin, also known as Hambali.

Bashir, who has denied any wrongdoing, was arrested last week on suspicion of involvement in several church bombings that killed 19 people in Indonesia two years ago.

The report, citing a plan called "Jihad Operations in Asia" that it said was uncovered by authorities in Solo, Indonesia, said Jemaah Islamiah plotted to bomb the American embassies in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in December 2001. Other targets included the diplomatic missions of the United States, Australia, Israel and Britain in Singapore, along with US and Singaporean defense establishments, the report said.

The plot was foiled with the arrests of 13 alleged Jemaah Islamiah members, according to the report.

AP



JEMAAH ISLAMIAH

The Bush administration moved towards designating Jemaah Islamiah a terrorist organisation as Indonesian police waited on Tuesday to interrogate its alleged leader, Abu Bakar Bashir, in his hospital bed

Jemaah Islamiah objective: To create a Muslim independent state which would regroup Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and the Muslim southern Philippines island of Mindanao

■ The spread of Jemaah Islamiah

■ Abu Bakar Bashir

Indonesian Muslim militant

1938: Born of Yemeni descent

1972: Sets up Muslim boarding school in Java

Late 1970s: Flees to Malaysia during Suharto's regime – returns after his departure

1978: Arrested for trying to set up an Islamic state in Indonesia

1982: Jailed for nine year

1980s: Forms concept of clandestine Islamic community

2002: Linked (with al-Qaeda) to bombings in Indonesia

Source: Center for Defense Information

REUTERS

ILLUSTRATION of Muslim militant cleric Abu Bakar Bashir and profile of the Jemaah Islamiah group he is alleged to lead. REUTERS

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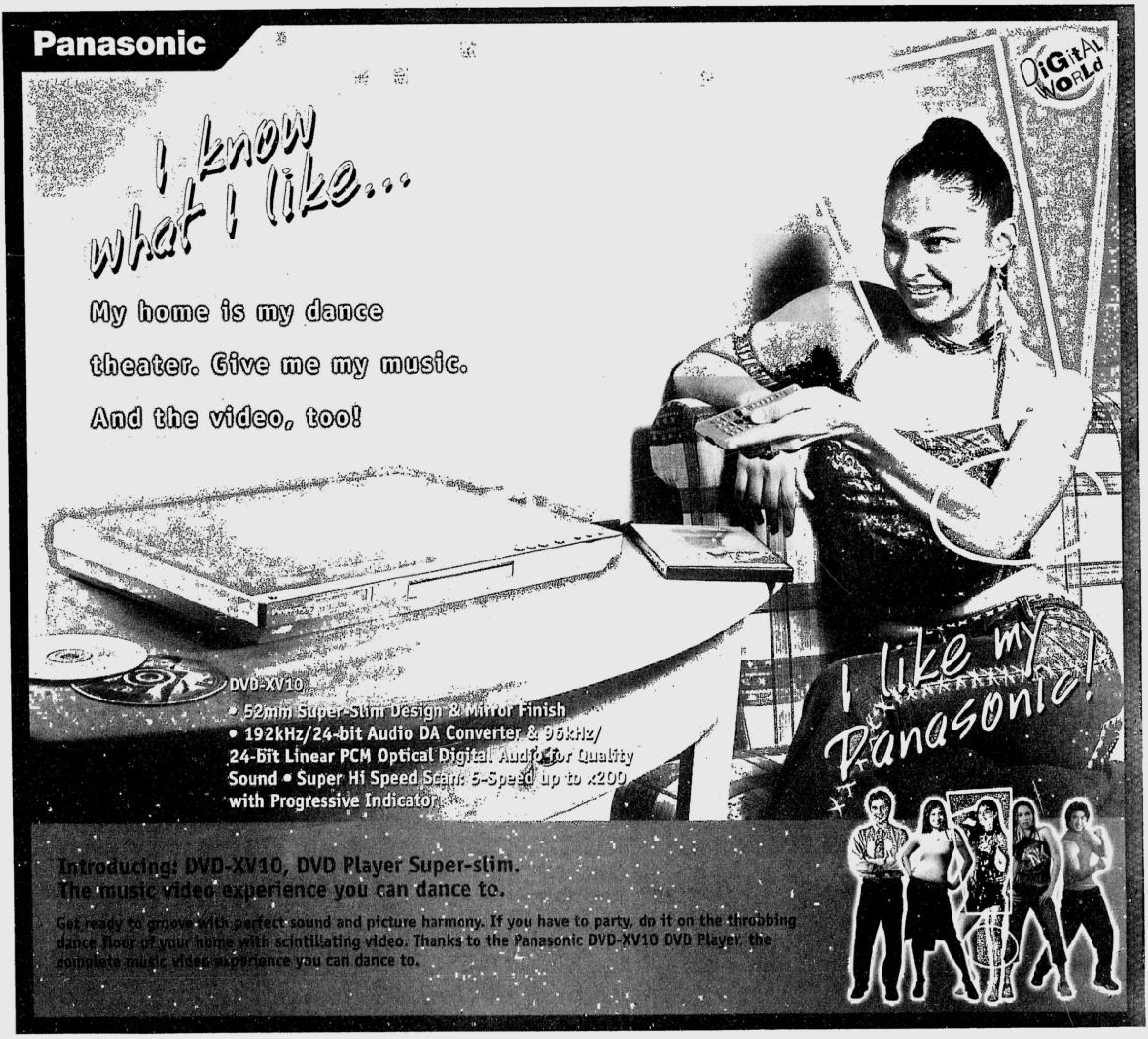

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US sniper threatens kids, demands $10M

WASHINGTON—"Your children are not safe anywhere, at any time."

Mothers and fathers in and around the US capital were to send their children off to school on Wednesday under that chilling threat from a sniper blamed for nine deaths—and possibly a tenth—in the past three weeks, reportedly in a scheme to make money.

Police were still working to confirm whether the shooting death of a bus driver in Silver Spring, Maryland, on Tuesday was the work of the gunman, whose murderous spree has terrorized the Washington region since Oct. 2.

Three other people have been shot and critically wounded.

The Washington Post, citing unidentified sources, reported on Wednesday that a message to police from the sniper demanded that authorities put $10 million in a bank account within two days or face more killings.

The angry letter, left at the scene of a shooting on Saturday night in Ashland, Virginia, about 140 km south of Washington, berated police as incompetent and listed six calls to the sniper task force that had been "ignored," the newspaper reported.

The threat to the children was part of the letter, Montgomery County, Maryland, Police Chief Charles Moose said at a news conference. "It is in the form of a postscript: 'Your children are not safe anywhere, at any time,'" he said.

In an apparent response to the letter, Moose sent a televised message to the sniper indicating that police had been considering his requests.

"We have researched the options you stated and found that it is not possible electronically to comply in the manner that you requested," Moose said.

"You indicated that this is about more than violence. We are waiting to hear from you," Moose said, adding that it was important to "do this without anyone else getting hurt."

Moose indicated that police wanted to continue the dialogue and said the person could communicate through a private post office box "if you would feel more comfortable."

In the latest shooting, Montgomery County bus driver Conrad Johnson, 35, was felled by single bullet around 6 a.m., as he was about to begin his work day.

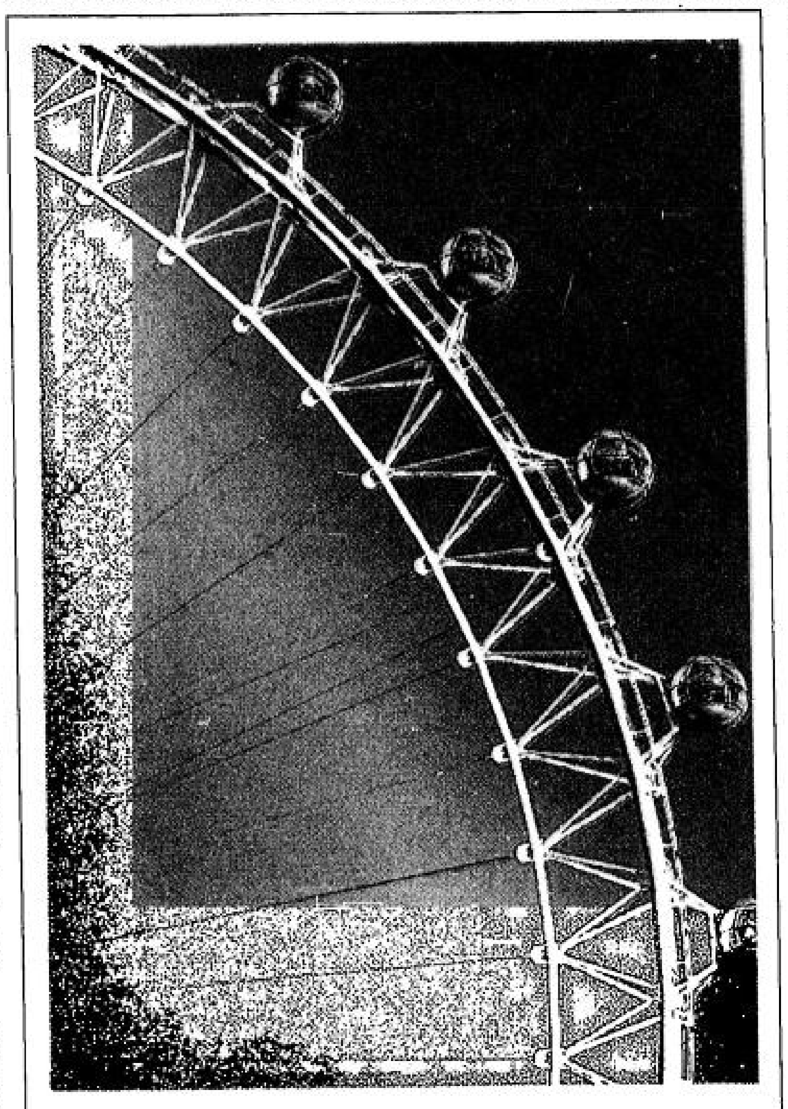
The first five killings also took place in Montgomery County, an affluent and usually tranquil suburban area just north of Washington. One occurred inside Washington, close to the Montgomery County border. Three people have been killed in Washington's Virginia suburbs.

A 13-year-old boy was wounded in Prince Georges County, Maryland, east of the US capital. A 43-year-old woman was wounded in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, and a 37-year-old man was wounded in the Ashland shooting on Saturday, the last attack definitively linked to the sniper.

"Everyone knows that all of our citizens are and have been at risk," Moose said. "The person or people have demonstrated a willingness and ability to shoot people of all ages, all races, all genders and they've struck at different times of the day, different days at different locations."

The shooting spree has paralyzed the region. Schools have canceled sports events and other outdoor activities and kept hundreds of thousands of students indoors during school hours.

The schools were in a high state of alert, with volunteer parents helping to patrol school grounds. *Reuters*



COLORFUL RIDE AP

All the colors of the rainbow shine through gloomy skies over the London Eye ferris wheel, in London Oct 22. Tourists taking a ride gazed at the picturesque view following unsettled weather of rain and sunshine.

3rd richest man in China faces arrest

HONG KONG—Chinese authorities want to arrest one of the country's richest men for economic crimes in the latest crackdown on high-profile tycoons.

China is cracking down on tax evaders and taking steps to clean up business as it prepares to open its doors to private enterprise in a bid to modernize.

The country's largest van maker, Brilliance China Automotive Holdings Ltd, said on Wednesday authorities in the northeastern province of Liaoning had approved the arrest of Executive Director Yang Rong over economic crimes.

Yang is believed to be in the United States, which US embassy officials in Beijing say does not have an extradition treaty with China.

Yang's falling-out with the authorities follows the recent arrest of orchid magnate Yang Bin, who headed one-time investor favorite Euro-Asia Agricultural (Holdings) and had been tapped by North Korea to head a new free trade enclave.

In June, film star Liu Xiaoqing, arrested on charges of evading more than a million dollars in taxes, became the most prominent target of a crackdown on tax cheats.

Businessmen once branded as capitalist exploiters are now seen as key to sustaining rapid economic growth.

The 16th Communist Party Congress next month is expected to unveil the next generation of leaders and adopt a plan to allow entrepreneurs to officially join the party, to the dismay of some old party hardliners and young liberals.

Ranked by Forbes magazine as China's third richest man in 2001, Yang was ousted in June as chairman of Brilliance China over what the firm said stemmed from an earlier difference with other shareholders. He remains an executive director. *Reuters*

Israel running out of military options, says minister

JERUSALEM—Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel was running out of military options to stop Palestinian suicide bombings and it was time to explore a return to peacemaking.

Ben-Eliezer spoke as a US envoy William Burns toured the region with a peace "roadmap" and Israel weighed how to respond to a Palestinian attack that killed 14 people on Monday without harming US efforts to win Arab support for war on Iraq.

"In effect, our inventory of what more can be done is running out," Ben-Eliezer—who is the Labor Party leader in the coalition government—told Israel's Channel One television late on Tuesday.

The militant Islamic Jihad group said two of its members carried out the latest suicide bombing, in which they rammed an explosives-packed car into a bus and turned it into a fireball on a main highway some 50 km north of Tel Aviv.

Israel responded to previous attacks with tough army assaults but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, mindful of US desire to keep a lid on Middle East violence ahead of a possible offensive against Iraq, refrained from swift retaliation.

"I think that despite that painful day, it would be worthwhile to begin some soul-searching and say that perhaps this is the time to begin to present our diplomatic agenda," Ben-Eliezer said, referring to Monday's bombing.

The statement exposed cracks in Sharon's ruling coalition.

He has said peacemaking cannot resume until anti-Israeli violence ends and Yasser Arafat is replaced as Palestinian leader.

On the political front, Sharon eased tensions within the government, chiding an Orthodox cabinet minister for describing Ben-Eliezer as a liar and a coward in connection with an army operation to remove a rogue settlement in the West Bank.

Ben-Eliezer retreated from his threat to resign after Sharon won a promise from National Infrastructure Minister Ephraim Eitam of the National Religious Party never to repeat the remarks.

Eitam had accused Ben-Eliezer of violating the Jewish sabbath by allowing soldiers to dismantle the settlement, built without government approval, on a Saturday when troops are supposed to be restricted to activity that saves Jewish lives.

Turning to Israel's relationship with Washington as war clouds loom over Iraq, the defense chief said on television he did not believe "the Americans are obstructing us when it comes to self-defense or fighting the terrorists." *Reuters*

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US resolution on Iraq still opposed

UNITED NATIONS,—Predicting negotiations for a UN resolution against Iraq would be "messy," the United States and Britain sought to convince France, Russia and China to approve tough disarmament proposals.

Facing opposition in the UN Security Council, Washington drew up a new draft, obtained by Reuters, and met twice on Tuesday with the four other permanent members of the 15-nation Security Council who hold veto power.

But there was no sign the two sides were moving any closer on the US draft, last changed on Monday.

The proposals no longer have an explicit authorization of military action but they declare Iraq in "material breach" and threaten "serious consequences," language Washington can interpret as sufficient to allow the use of force.

US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher told reporters on Tuesday, "It's probably going to be a messy process," because of the complicated and lengthy text.

US Ambassador John Negroponte said the five would meet again as soon as possible but acknowledged hard work ahead.

"Every country brings its own perspective and its own point of view to these issues, and these things have to be hashed out and discussed," he said, adding that he wanted to ensure "there's no veto in the offing."

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov was quoted as telling journalists in Moscow that "the American draft resolution . . . does not for the moment, meet the criteria which the Russian side had previously outlined and stands by now."

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said during a visit to Luxembourg, "Some progress is still needed and so we have much work to do."

The United States has agreed to a two-stage process but not two resolutions as France once wanted, one to give UN weapons inspectors a mandate and a second to authorize force.

The US resolution requires the inspectors "to report immediately to the Council any interference by Iraq with inspection activities, as well as any failure by Iraq to comply with its disarmament obligations."

The Security Council would then convene immediately to consider the situation. British Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock has said this could lead to a second resolution but "the US is saying is will not be committed to wait for the result because the UN may not get it right."

The US draft demands Iraq accept the resolution within seven days of its adoption and within 30 days provide "an acceptable and currently accurate, full and complete declaration of all aspects of its programs" to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Inspections are to resume within 45 days after the resolution is adopted and the inspectors will then have 60 days to report back on their findings. But they are to report sooner if Iraq fails to comply with its obligations.

Russia was said to voice the harshest criticism at the private sessions. France and others, diplomats said, had problems with the wording of Iraq's declaration of its weapons and related materials, believing it could open the way to war.

The US draft says, "False statements or omissions in the declarations submitted by Iraq pursuant to this resolution and failure by Iraq at any time to comply with, and co-operate fully in the implementation of, this resolution shall constitute further material beach of Iraq's obligations."

Washington believes that if US forces were to attack Iraq the best conditions would be in the first few months of next year and are anxious to wrap up the UN process, without which few nations would offer political support.

Iraq denies it has weapons of mass destruction and says it will allow free access to UN inspectors. *Reuters*

CHINESE President Jiang Zemin offers a toast during a dinner in Chicago Oct. 22. Jiang is spending one day in Chicago before flying to Texas. AFP

China's Jiang in US, sees better ties

CHICAGO—Chinese President Jiang Zemin expressed hope for improving relations with the United States on Tuesday as he arrived for a meeting with President George W. Bush—a session likely to produce a show of unity despite hot issues ranging from nuclear arms proliferation to Iraq.

"I look forward to my visit with President Bush to exchange views on serious and important subjects . . . to help move forward our cooperative relationship," the 76-year-old Jiang said during a toast at a dinner in Chicago attended by political and business leaders.

His remarks were short on specifics but he did mention combating transnational crime, promoting global and regional economic growth and "fighting terrorism"—an issue which has brought China's support to Washington following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington.

Jiang was greeted on arrival at O'Hare International Airport by a US Navy brass band and about 1,000 members of the city's Chinese community who shouted "warm welcome" and waved tiny red-and-gold Chinese flags.

He stepped onto a red carpet for a handshake from Chicago's mayor, Richard Daley, Motorola Inc. Chairman Christopher Galvin and other political and business leaders.

The arrival was free of protesters, 700 of whom marched in downtown Chicago the day before to raise human rights issues.

But scores of demonstrators assembled outside the downtown hotel where Jiang was staying, demanding a free Tibet and religious freedom in China.

"There is no rule of law in China," said Erping Zhang, one of the demonstrators. "Any dictator can change the law whenever he wants and there is no independent legal system." *Reuters*

North Korea agrees to talks over nuke furor

SEOUL—North Korea agreed Wednesday to resolve international concerns over its nuclear weapons program through dialogue, but stopped short of meeting a US demand for an immediate end to its nuclear ambitions.

Delegates from the two Koreas came to the agreement overnight in Pyongyang, the north's capital, following four days of talks that were extended beyond schedule as they tried to tackle the nuclear issue.

"In order to guarantee peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, the South and North will actively cooperate in resolving all the issues, including the nuclear issue, through dialogue," said the joint statement released early Wednesday.

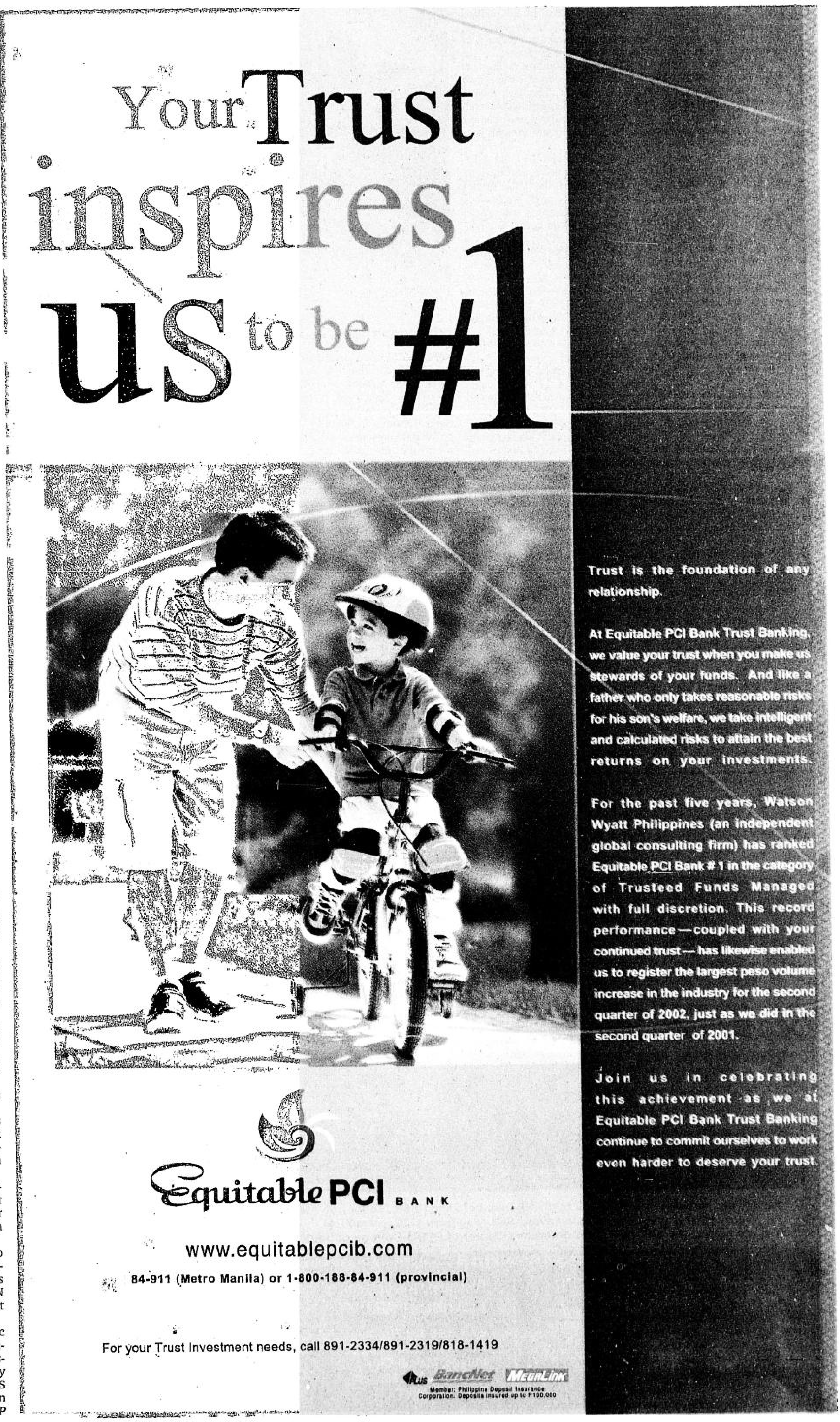
The South Korean presidential Blue House welcomed the agreement.

"It's meaningful that the agreement was reached," presidential spokesperson Park Sun-sook said. "We expect that the agreement will provide a positive momentum in trying to resolve the North's nuclear issue."

The talks also focused on Korean reconciliation, with the two sides agreeing to build a joint industrial park in North Korea exclusively for South Korean businesses and allow South Korean fishing boats to operate in North Korean waters.

But the eight-point agreement contained no clear-cut North Korean promise to give up its nuclear weapons program and honor its agreements with the United States, South Korea and the UN International Atomic Energy Agency, which bar it from developing or possessing nuclear bombs.

The United States, encouraged by economic reforms and other recent changes in the reclusive communist nation, wants to resolve the issue peacefully but "will judge North Korea by what it does, rather than by what it says," US Ambassador to Seoul Thomas Hubbard said in a speech to South Korean economists. *AP*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Mayor offers Cebu City site to test nat'l ID

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Mayor Tomas Osmeña has offered Cebu City as the pilot area in the implementation of the National Identification System (NIS).

Osmeña said he volunteered the idea to President Macapagal Arroyo during a meeting with city mayors in Malacañang on Monday.

Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia supported Osmeña, saying the Philippines has been left behind by its neighboring countries in the implementation of the NIS.

But militant groups in Cebu were opposed to the NIS implementation as it was prone to abuse.

Mayor Osmeña said the implementation of the NIS should be voluntary at the start.

Those who will be required to have national ID would be the government employees, he added.

But gradually, he said he will convince the other sectors to adopt the NIS. One advantage of a NIS, he added, was that it would be easier to check if the person had criminal records.

He said it is important that fingerprints are stored in computers to make it easier to match if the need arises.

But Osmeña admitted that the complete implementation of the plan will take years but should start now.

He added that he was planning to go to Malaysia to study that country's implementation of its ID system.

Governor Garcia said this plan should have been adopted a long time ago.

He said the Philippines has been left behind by its Asian neighbors such as Malaysia and Taiwan.

Garcia said he could not understand why other people were opposed to a national ID system. Persons with no criminal records should not be afraid of it, he said.

Fr. Max Abalos, national chair of Sanlakas, said the ID system should not even be discussed now because it was junked by the Supreme Court during the Ramos administration.

If the High Court junked the proposal, he added, it meant that there was something suspicious about it.

Abalos also raised concern that the implementation of the NIS might led to violation of human rights.

MILF threatens to end talks if Army continues offensives

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front has warned that the ongoing military air and ground assault against its positions in Lanao and Maguindanao could lead to the collapse of the peace talks.

"There is a bright prospect for a peaceful solution of the political problem in Mindanao. However, this bright prospect is dimmed by the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) offensive military actions or incursion in some known MILF areas," Ebrahim Muran, MILF vice chair for political military affairs, said in press statement sent to the INQUIRER from his base in Malaysia.

Murad, who chairs the MILF panel talking peace with the government, said the MILF central committee strongly condemns these acts as a clear violation of the agreement for the cessation of hostilities signed on July 18, 1997.

The Army's Southern Command has claimed that at least 30 MILF guerrillas, Abu Sayyaf bandits and members of the Misuari Renegade Group (MRG) were killed in the week-long military operations in Lanao del Sur.

GOVERNMENT soldiers occupy an alleged camp of the MILF and Abu Sayyaf on Mt. Palaw, Lanao del Sur.

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

No basis

But Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, said the Army's claim has no basis since there was no Abu Sayyaf or MRG forces in the three municipalities.

The Abu Sayyaf is a bandit group with factions based in Basilan and Sulu. The MRG is reported to be a group composed of Moro National Liberation Front members loyal to their former chair Nur Misuari.

"These are MILF communities," Kabalu said of the Army's claim that Abu Sayyaf, under Commander Isnilon Hapilon, were allowed entry in MILF territories in exchange for payment of money collected by kidnappers as ransom in Basilan and Sulu.

"We are revolutionary forces and we abhor the activities of Abu Sayyaf," Kabalu told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Murad said the offensives in the boundaries of Shariff Aguak and Datu Piang in Maguindanao that began Monday clearly constituted violations of the ceasefire accord.

Maj. Julieto Ando, speaking for the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the offensive in Shariff Aguak and Datu Piang was triggered by the massing up of MILF forces who, he alleged, planned to take control of the Cotabato-General Santos City highway.

"We have preempted their plans to seize the highway," Ando said.

At least four MILF fighters were killed during the two-day skirmishes, Ando said. But this claim was quickly denied by Kabalu, saying the four MILF guerrillas were executed and were unarmed when accosted by soldiers in Datu Piang.

"There is a tendency that these AFP offensives will jeopardize the positive efforts of the GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) and MILF peace panels towards peace if the same continue unabated," the MILF military chief said.

MILF panel

Earlier, Murad said the MILF peace panel has submitted the names of its members who will compose the Bangsamoro Development Agency as provided for in the implementing guidelines of an agreement signed in June last year.

"With this development, the MILF and the government, as parties to the agreement on peace, are going toward the right direction for the betterment of life in the conflict affected areas in Mindanao."

In Davao City, government chief negotiator and Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said it was more difficult to deal with military officials than the MILF.

Dureza said it was easier for the panel to explain the mechanisms of how to achieve a lasting peace to the rebels than to senators, congressmen and even to top military officials.

In a briefing with participants of the Multi-sectoral Consultation of Government Peace Negotiating Panel (GPNP) for Talks with the MILF here on Monday, Dureza said there were instances when government and military officials misunderstood the panel's position to negotiate than go to war.

Some military officials, he said, would even object to calls to end hostilities because for them, negotiations would not achieve peace.

"What is in their minds is to destroy the enemy," Dureza lamented.

But despite the apparent setback, Dureza said the panel was determined to pursue the peace talks.

He said they continue to meet and convince civilian and military officials about the importance of having a peace pact with the MILF and other revolutionary groups.

The government, Dureza said, also continues to conduct multilevel consultations to inform the public about the government's peace and development efforts in the areas of conflict.

Dureza said because of the persistence of the panel, some military officials have slowly understood why local monitoring teams in conflict-stricken areas were present.

Peace teams

The teams, composed of representatives from local government units, non-government organizations and the MILF, were specifically organized to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur last year.

These are found in Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley.

Dureza said the peace efforts have also been gaining headway.

One of the accomplishments of the current peace talks was the establishment of the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), a body tasked to determine, lead and manage rehabilitation and development projects in the conflict-stricken areas.

Amid talks of peace and the waging of war, thousands of residents of Lanao del Sur were forced to leave their homes for safety.

In Malabang town, a total of 691 families have sought temporary shelter in their relatives' homes.

Another 790 families have been displaced in Sultan Gumander while 63 other families left their homes in Pualas town. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Fake SSS claims uncovered

ILIGAN CITY—The local branch of the Social Security System here has uncovered at least nine fraudulent death claims this year.

Cheryl Jariol, SSS branch manager, said tips from concerned citizens led to the discovery of the spurious claims.

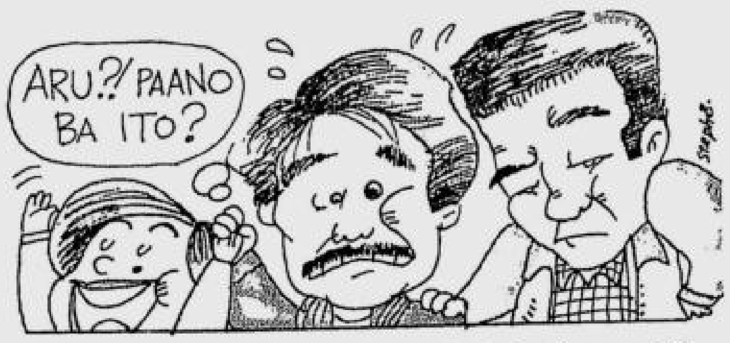
Jariol has earlier urged locals to report people who might have been defrauding the SSS by filing false claims.

She said that she made the appeal over a radio station, tips began coming in.

One of those frauds involved a death claim for an SSS member who reportedly died in 1994.

Jariol said the SSS got hold of pieces of evidence that the member is alive and has been serving as councilor of Maigo town in Lanao del Norte.

She said the SSS has already cancelled the benefits that were being given to the councilor's family and that charges were also being prepared. *Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



FPJ's entry in 2004 polls a dilemma for Lito Lapid

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Gov. Manuel Lapid may be in a tight political bind should action star Fernando Poe Jr. decide to run for president against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lapid, an action star like Poe, said he would not try to stop Poe from running even if Ms Macapagal is his political ally in Lakas-NUCD and his "kabalen (province mate)."

"Ayaw ko siyang pangunahan. Mataas ang respeto ko sa kanya (Poe). Tatay ko yan (I don't want to preempt his decision. I respect him a lot and I treat him as a father)," said Lapid.

"Puede ba namang utusan ng anak ang kanyang ama (Can a son command his father)?" he asked.

But the governor stressed that Poe is not yet saying if he intends to run against Ms Macapagal in 2004. Lapid also noted that Ms Macapagal has not made her political plans for 2004 known.

Lapid admitted that he would have his hands full in rallying the provincial Lakas-NUCD, which he chairs, to unite behind the official candidate of the party.

"I won't deal with this issue (of Poe running against the President) on a personal level. As I always do, I take the party's stand," he said.

Ms Macapagal last year appointed Lapid as her emissary to the poor after the bloody May 1 siege in Malacañang. Lapid went as far as Mindanao to represent the President.

Lapid's close political advisers described the governor's situation as being "caught in the middle of political heavyweights."

One adviser said Poe could ignore Lapid's help because of his popularity.

Another said with Poe around, Lapid would have to work harder to deliver votes for Ms Macapagal.

Officials assure Boracay protected from terrorism

is WAR not an ALTERNATIVE

PEACE BID
Peace advocates light up candles in Baguio City in a bid to convince the government to reign in its war machines in the fight against terrorism.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI N. LUZON

GOVERNMENT officials gave assurances that Boracay remains safe for tourists even as security measures are being tightened in potential terrorist targets in Western Visayas.

Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores said security measures have been tightened following the bombing in Bali, Indonesia and the rush of explosions that hit Zamboanga City and Metro Manila. The world-famous island resort is in Malay town, Aklan.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro, police regional director for Western Visayas, said the Boracay Special Protection Unit would act as a unified command of the Philippine National Police, the Army and the Coast Guard to ensure efficient coordination among law enforcing agencies on the island. More policemen were also sent to the island.

Navarro said they also adopted a three-pronged approach to counter threats of terror attacks.

This involves the identification of potential targets and securing of these targets; the forming of teams from the provincial to the barangay level; and the intensification of intelligence operations.

He said potential targets would be identified based on a set of parameters. These include the "symbolical value" of a particular target.

Places that would be frequented by foreigners and known individuals would be secured.

Crowded areas like markets, shopping malls, churches and events that draw crowds like religious festivals will also be closely guarded.

Miraflores said the massive bombing of a popular nightclub in Bali that killed nearly 200 mostly foreign tourists had so far failed to affect tourist arrivals in Boracay.

"The tourists are still coming in droves," said Miraflores after a meeting of the Regional Peace and Order Council in Western Visayas, which he chairs.

He said unlike in Bali, most foreign visitors in Boracay are Koreans.

The governor said they have given security briefings to resort owners.

A plan to implement an ID system for residents on the island will soon be implemented.

In Negros Occidental, Gov. Joseph Marañon reminded all mayors and barangay officials to step up their intelligence monitoring.

Bacolod Mayor Luzviminda Valdez and nine other mayors were also summoned to Malacañang on Monday for a security briefing against terrorism.

Valdez said the need for continued security was stressed.
Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

ROUNDUP

Drug boss nabbed

OLONGAPO CITY—Police last week arrested a suspected leader of an illegal drug syndicate operating in the city. Arrested was Louie Bernal, 37, suspected leader of the "Bernal group," which was listed in the police's priority targets of local organized crime groups. Seized from Bernal's house in Barangay New Ilalim here were assorted illegal drug paraphernalia and three sachets of shabu.
Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

North caravan

BAGUIO CITY—A five-day adventure caravan exploring the Northern Philippines will start this week. Participants in the 3rd Grand North Philippines Expedition will visit an indigenous peoples' community in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, before they proceed to the rice terraces in Ifugao. They will also visit the Callao Caves and Our Lady of Piat Shrine in Cagayan and explore the Chico River in Kalinga, and Sagada and Bontoc towns in Mt. Province.
Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Minors in heinous crimes

LEGAZPI CITY—Most heinous crimes in the Bicol Region for the past three months were committed by minors, said Supt. Manuel B. Duka, Bicol Bureau of Jail Management and Penology assistant director. Duka attributed this to the proliferation of pirated compact discs and other materials that show nudity and poverty. He said most of the capital offenses committed by minors were rape and murder. At least 70 minor offenders, whose ages range from 13 to 17 and now detained, are facing rape charges, murder, theft and robbery, he said. Camarines Sur ranked first with 25 minor offenders, followed by Albay with 16, Camarines Norte, 15; Masbate, 9; and Sorsogon, 5.
Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wardens face charges

CEBU CITY—The on-leave warden of the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center, Supt. Lita Quilaton, and her deputy, Chief Insp. Oscar Capanas, are facing administrative charges of simple neglect of duty before the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology for allegedly giving special treatment to cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. The two were placed under investigation after a young woman was found to have sneaked into and spent the night at Ecleo's "special cell" on Sept. 27. Ecleo has no conjugal visitation rights since he is a widower. He is facing parricide charges for the murder of his wife Alona in January.
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Go-to agency

ILOILO CITY—Victims of inept and sluggish officials of various national government agencies all over the country can now heave a sigh of relief. Starting this month, the Philippine Information Agency will see to it that their complaints would get to the attention of concerned higher officials based in Manila, under a project called GAWIN (At Work Inter-Agency Network). "PIA offices would assume the rule of a call center on a daily basis, like the 911 type," said PIA director general Renato Velasco. "Through this, we believe we can help people get what they want from the government. In other words, we are converting PIA as a go-to agency."
Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cautious kid advocates

DUMAGUETE CITY—Advocates of children's rights in Negros Oriental have learned to exercise caution in espousing their advocacy as it could lead to social upheavals in the community. Joy Gongob, program coordinator of Country Program for Children 5 (CPC-V)-provincial task force, said their lectures on children's rights nearly caused trouble in Barangay San Pedro in Sta. Catalina town, after a girl threatened to sue her parents for spanking her. After the incident, the parents in San Pedro became hesitant to support the project, saying it would deprive them of the right to discipline their children.
Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Missing in Tarlac

LETICIA Payang Delgado, 45, widow of Barangay Calingcuan, Tarlac City had been missing since two weeks ago. Anyone who knows or may have information about her whereabouts may please contact her sister Virginia Payang at (0916)309-8537

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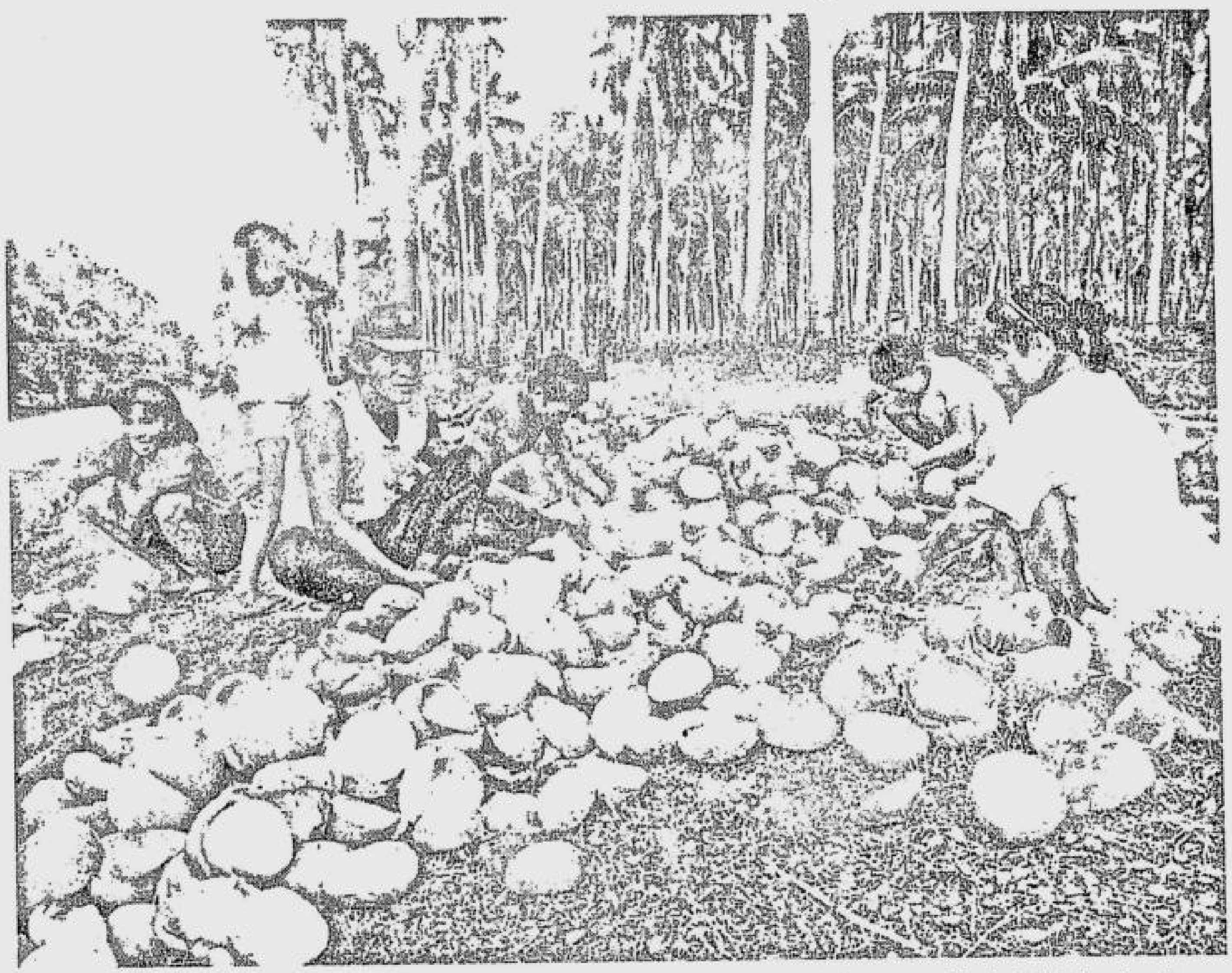
INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Endless battle for coco levy fund

Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

PEASANT leader Rene Cerilla of the Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon (Ugma-Quezon), a coalition of farmers organizations in the province, recalled how his late father instilled in his young mind that tenants in a coconut farm have no business with anything that deals with the coconut levy.



QUEZON farmers continue to grope in the dark as their claim for the coco-levy fund, the supposed fruit of their hard work, remains in the hands of what they call a "coconut mafia." FILE PHOTO

When the young Cerilla, who was then in Grade Six in Barangay Jongo, Lopez town, continued to pester his father with the "why's," the explanation still echoes up to the present: "Because that's what the law dictates."

"It's unfair for millions of farmer-tenants like us because my father and all of us, his six children, were all directly involved in the coconut industry," Cerilla said. At ten, he could already remove the coconut husk with ease. The Cerillas have been tenants in more than three hectares of coconut land they do not own.

The coconut levy, or the Coconut Consumers Stabilization Fund, was collected from coconut farmers from 1973 to 1982. An initial P15 per 100 kilograms of copra was imposed and deducted from the product's buying price. The total levy collection reached P9.7 billion in 1982 and is now estimated to be worth at least P130 billion.

"The purpose of the levy collections was to fund concerns, activities and commercial investments for the benefit of the coconut farmers," said Oscar Santos, a former Quezon lawmaker and once head of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Santos noted that the phrase "for the benefit of the coconut farmers" was repeated at least 82 times in the texts of six presidential decrees, three executive orders, four letters of instruction and 11 PCA resolutions. "Its purpose was precisely to help uplift the lives of the coconut peasantry," he stressed.

Hope

Although there were no exact data, Quezon coconut landowners and farmers were believed to be the biggest contributors to the coconut levy. Their past contributions to the leadership of the PCA and even its predecessor, the Philippine Coconut Administration, reflect this. However, majority of the province's coconut tillers, aliens to the ins and outs of corporate law that shrouds the coco levy fund, have remained skeptic and groping in the dark.

In the village of Yawe, Padre Burgos town, farmers see the legal mumbo jumbo of the fund as just another phase of their struggle to correct the injustice committed against them by the government.

"For the past two decades, we have been fighting for the return of the levy to the small coconut farmers, so what is another ten years if the wait would result in the fulfillment of all our dreams," said Leopoldo Fajardo, a native of Yawe.

The members of Ugma-Quezon firmly believe that someday, the forced levy extracted from every sale of their copra produce would still be of help, if not to the original owners of the coconut levy receipts as most are already dead, but at least to their living heirs, who still depend on the now-dying industry.

Eva Aguilar, narrated how she "inherited" a bag-full of cocofund receipts from her departed aunt, which were just left lying in one corner of her aunt's bedroom. "When I first saw the bag, I thought she left me with lots of cash." The faded receipts in various colors bore the amount of P0.55 for every 100 kg of copra; P1.10 for 200 kg, and P2.75 for 500 kg.

"Back then, there were regular buyers of coconut levy coupons to be used as contest ballots for a beauty pageant or popularity or whatever contest in craze. The price tag of the coupon would depend on the need of the buyer. When we sensed that they really needed it, the price was much higher," Aguilar recalled.

Ignorance

During the '70s they sold copra to a certain Jose Uy, a Chinese copra trader whose warehouse was located near the railway station. But most of them never gave much importance to the cocofund coupon, recalled some of the elder villagers. Village boys used them as playing cards.

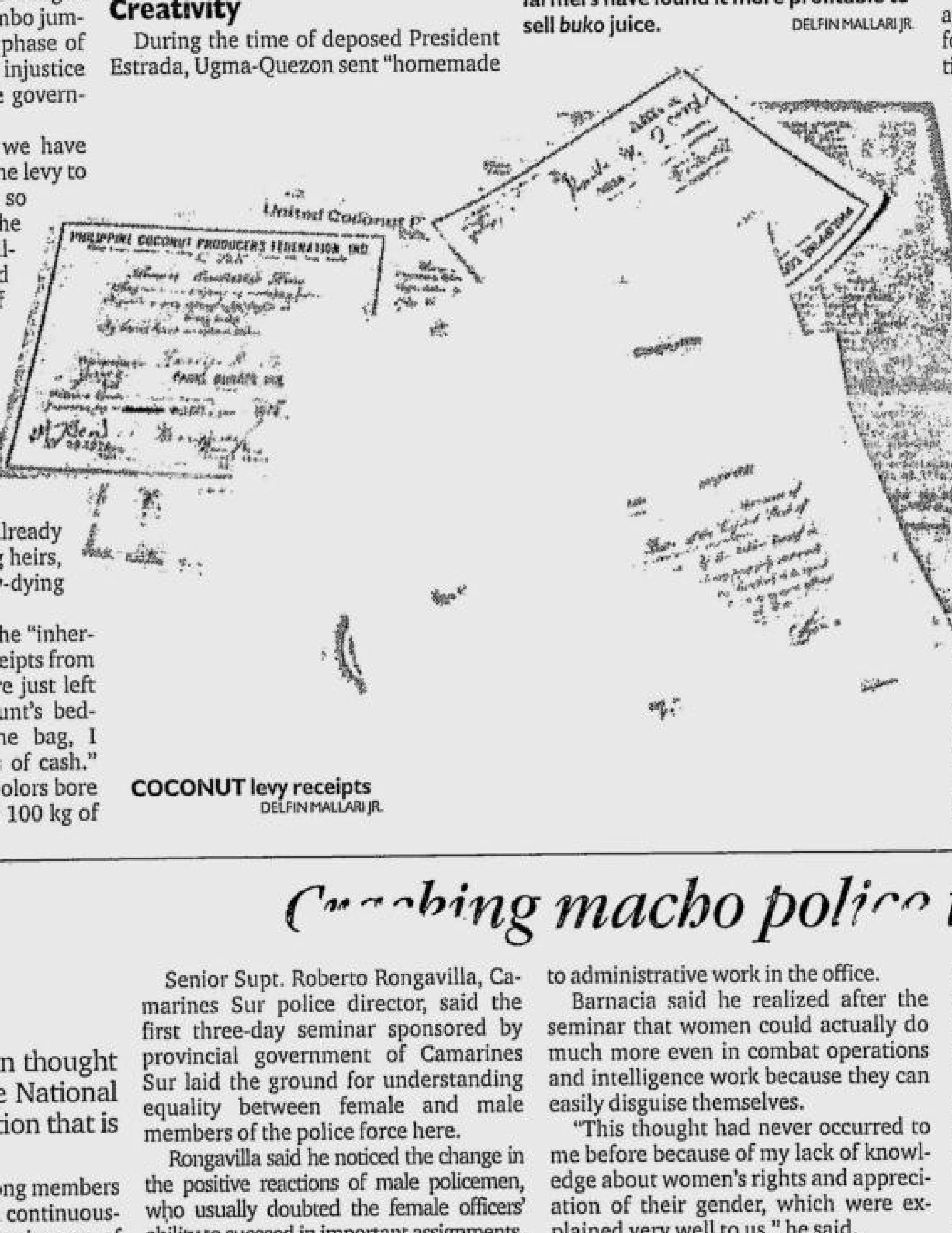
"One can step on the coupons along the muddy road leading to the warehouse. The copra seller probably just tossed them away after getting paid," said another farmer in his 50s. The villagers disclosed that buyers of the certificates once came to the barrio and conducted a purchasing spree.

"We didn't know most of them, but some were known associates of Cocofed officials. Many of us sold our certificates because the price was tempting, considering that we didn't know what use we had for that piece of paper," said one of the farmers. "Some bought our certificates for as high as P500 each," Fajardo recalled.

For the coconut farmers, the "redemption-from-the-hardship promise" as originally intended by the coconut levy fund would not come on a silver platter. They have been fighting for its return as soon as the democratic space opened with Marcos' exit in February 1986.

The return of the fund to the farmers continues to rage among coconut farmers in the country. After more than two decades, Cerilla found himself contradicting the dictum left by his father. Ugma-Quezon, which he helped found, has been active in coconut levy-related mobilizations in the province.

WITH the low price of copra, the farmers have found it more profitable to sell *buko* juice. DELFIN MALLARI JR.



United Coconut P

PHILIPPINE COCONUT PRODUCERS FEDERATION, INC

COCONUT levy receipts
DELFIN MALLARI JR.

Creativity

During the time of deposed President Estrada, Ugma-Quezon sent "homemade bombs" to Malacañang through a commercial express courier service, to bomb out the former President from his "stupor." The "bombs" were composed of three separate packages. The first one contained a handful of soil, which was the "gunpowder;" the second contained pieces of copra, which served as "fragments;" and the third one consisted of dried branches of trees taken from trees illegally cut by loggers in the Quezon National Park, which served as "blasting caps and wires."

And to emphasize the life-and-death message of the "bombs," the farmers slashed their arms and let the blood mix with the "bomb components" in a "blood compact" ritual. But after the supposed "bombs" were delivered to Malacañang Palace the next morning, police started to investigate the "bomb sender," to the amusement of the coconut farmers.

During the Maytime festival in Sariaya, coconut farmers have also transformed the celebration into a denunciation of the alleged anti-peasant policy of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, particularly on the issue of the coconut levy. The farmers carried a mat with the messages: "Coco levy mula sa pawis at dugo ng mga maliliit na manggagawa at magsasaka sa niyugan, ibalik (from the sweat and blood of small coconut workers and farmers, return)!"

"The government should not be contended that it is now the one running the affair of the United Coconut Planters Bank because in truth and in fact, the bulk of the levy is still in the control of Danding Cojuangco," Jun Lontok, vice president of Makabayang Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas, said.

Activist priest Fr. Raul Enriquez said: "The land reform program is still a charade. . . the fruit of the coco levy is still in the hands and control of the coconut mafia. The farmers have become more miserable under the Macapagal-Arroyo administration," said Enriquez, director of the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Lucena.

Public fund

But with the recent Supreme Court ruling that declared the levy as "prima facie" public fund, Cerilla said, "a new ray of hope beacons from the horizon." He, however, added that the road to total victory is still a long way ahead.

"Mr. Cojuangco's clique is still all over the place, still holding the key to the general direction of the levy money," he said.

Until the court finally declares that the coco levy money is indeed public fund and rightfully belongs to the coconut farmers, the struggle will continue, Cerilla said.

With the low price of copra, the farmers in six coconut-producing provinces in Southern Tagalog have found it more profitable to cut coconut trees and turn them into lumber, according to the 2001 yearend report by the PCA. Quezon topped the list of provinces with the most number of trees cut.

The phenomenon is also manifested by the daily wave of *buko* (young coconut) juice vendors plying the city streets. Enterprising coconut farmers also cash in on the demand for young coco meat and coconut piths.

Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes, one of the four lawmakers who filed a bill in Congress that seeks to declare the coco levy as public fund, said, "The coconut farmers have suffered for so long. It's time for the government to correct the injustice by offering them financial aid as soon as possible."

But for Santos, also the head of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement, "The matter, I think, goes beyond the coconut. It is a continuing indictment of our justice system. It is one of the injustices that have (made an) impact on our people's faith and trust in the government and our stability as a nation. It is time to correct this untenable and unjust situation."

Cerilla is right that any help from the government should be made as soon as possible. The Ugma-Quezon leader reveals that the seeming endless battle has already taken its toll on a number of old and sickly members.

"And what they received was a measly P5,000 insurance money," Cerilla lamented.

Crushing macho police think

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

IT HAS always been thought that the Philippine National Police is an institution that is solely a man's world.

The macho thinking among members of the police force has been continuously reinforced with the dominance of males in the institution.

In Camarines Sur alone, only five percent of the police force are female, while the highest rank that a female officer can aspire for is that of a police captain.

But this traditional thinking is now no longer so. Thanks to the first gender sensitivity seminar held here last week for all PNP members.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rongavilla, Camarines Sur police director, said the first three-day seminar sponsored by provincial government of Camarines Sur laid the ground for understanding equality between female and male members of the police force here.

Rongavilla said he noticed the change in the positive reactions of male policemen, who usually doubted the female officers' ability to succeed in important assignments.

"The gender sensitivity seminar has further improved the relations between male and female police officers on matters relating to their assignments in the context of gender limitations," Rongavilla said.

SPO4 Roberto Barnacia said that before the gender sensitivity seminar, he always thought that female members of the police force must always be confined to administrative work in the office.

Barnacia said he realized after the seminar that women could actually do much more even in combat operations and intelligence work because they can easily disguise themselves.

"This thought had never occurred to me before because of my lack of knowledge about women's rights and appreciation of their gender, which were explained very well to us," he said.

PO2 Dominic Termil said he now understands that it does not degrade women just because some assignments are naturally not fit for them because of their inherent physical characteristics.

"I now look at women like men with their own limitations, weaknesses and strengths," he said.

PO3 Eva Jacob said she noticed some changes among the police officers she works with in her unit who are now conscious and trying their best to avoid sexist comments.

Before the conduct of the gender sensitivity seminar, most of her male colleagues would not even mind bragging about their exploits on women even when she was around, she said.

But now, the male police officers would stop taunting women at least whenever she is around.

In his closing remarks during the seminar, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis R. Villafuerte said the Bicolano culture, according to historical accounts, was a matriarchal society during the pre-Spanish era.

"The Bicolanos are actually a matriarchal society trying to be macho," Villafuerte said.

He added that gender sensitivity could make the police force humane and efficient with the full recognition of women's ability in their work.

The gender sensitivity seminar has also taught the police officers how to handle and treat domestic violence against women and children.

Lawyer Lina General, the main lecturer of the seminar, explained that violence against women and children in the homes should be treated as a public crime.

General said when somebody is being manhandled, the police can assert that it is a public crime even if the incident happens inside a house and the perpetrator is a relative.

"When there is a public crime, the police can always interfere to restore order and evade the victims from more harm," she said.

Palace to issue order: No ID, no government service

From page A1

act of Congress to do so."

"Without the act of Congress, any other order to implement a national ID system would be an invasion of privacy," he said.

Golez said that IDs issued by the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to their members would suffice at the moment. But the government plans to cover all Filipinos with the ID system.

Golez would not say how the system would ferret out suspected terrorists, who could just opt not to deal with the government.

"Somewhere along the way that guy has to transact with the government. Do you think you can live without transacting with government?" the national security adviser said.

He noted that Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura "strongly supported" a proposal requiring private banks to demand IDs from their clients. Buenaventura earlier said that this would do away with spurious bank accounts.

Former President Fidel Ramos tried to enforce a national ID system six years ago through Administrative Order No. 308 titled, "Adoption of a National Computerized Identification Reference System," dated Dec. 12, 1996.

NATIONAL Security Council meeting at the Palace is headed by President Macapagal. From left, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, former President Cory Aquino and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Clear and present danger

But on July 23, 1998, the Supreme Court struck down the AO, saying it placed the citizens' right to privacy "in clear and present danger."

The high court said Filipinos could not exercise their rights and enjoy their privileges as before because they would be forced to get an ID in order to deal with the government. It added that the AO was an intrusion into the individual's "zones of privacy," the essence of which is the right to be let alone.

The Supreme Court also pointed out that the President could not make laws. It was then Sen. Blas Ople, now foreign secretary, who questioned the AO's validity before the Supreme Court.

But Golez said the Supreme Court ruling did not prevent the government from requiring an ID from its citizens. "The government (can do this) in the same way the private sector reserves the right to transact only with people whose identities they can establish," he said.

"It's not a situation where you're walking down the street and then the barangay captain will ask for your ID. If you don't have an ID it will not be a violation. There will be no penalties (for not having one)," he said.

The League of Municipalities of the Philippines said the ID system would "boost the government's campaign against criminality and terrorism."

Several lawmakers and cause-oriented groups have floated the idea of a national ID system following the wave of bomb explosions in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila.

Roquero, former mayor of Valderama, Antique, said town mayors believed that the proposal would help check the movements of suspected terrorists in their communities. "With the ID system, we can easily police our ranks and identify new faces in a community," he said. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Rocky Nazareno*

Defense agencies going South; Marines first

From page A1

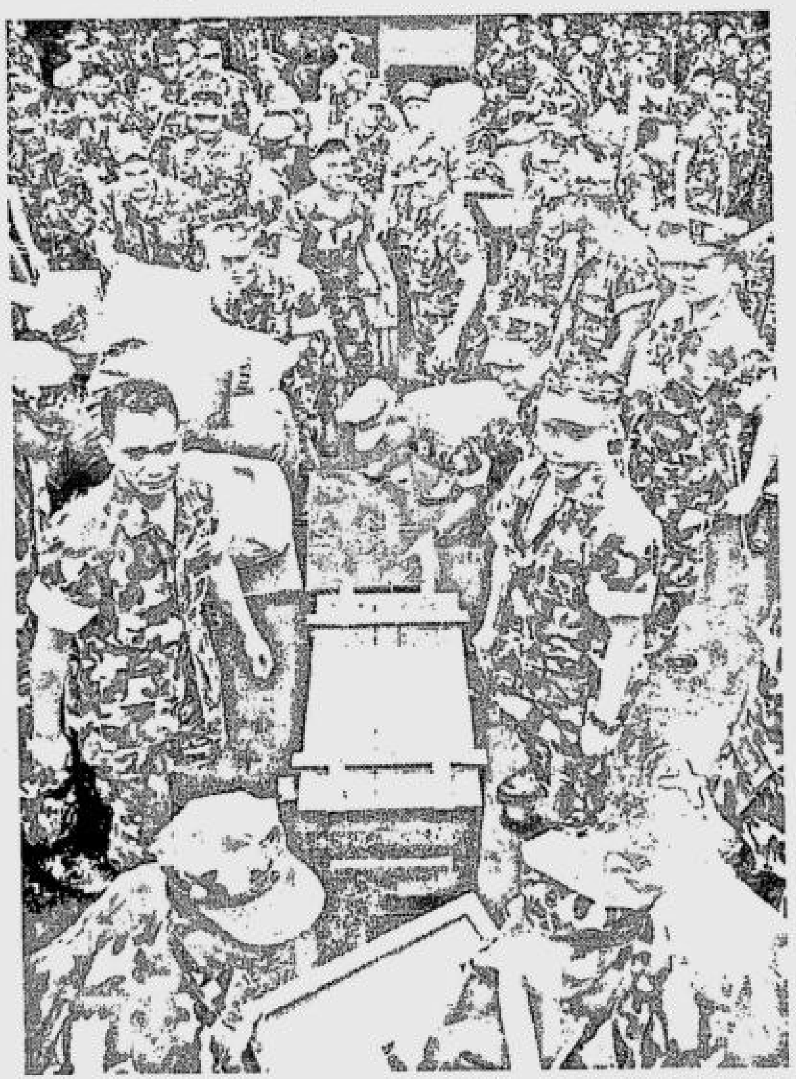
leaders here, the President said she had instructed Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor to begin moving the Marine headquarters from Fort Bonifacio to a government property in Kabatangan district, outside Zamboanga City.

The 9,000-strong Philippine Marines have been at the forefront of the fight against Abu Sayyaf bandits on the islands of Basilan and Jolo, just south of Zamboanga City.

Ms Macapagal said the government was drawing up a timetable for the transfer of the entire defense establishment to Mindanao, a hotbed of activity of communist insurgents, Moro separatist rebels, kidnappers and extortionists.

"The defense establishment will move to Mindanao because that is where our security problems are greater," she said in her keynote speech on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Union of Catholic Student Councils at the University of San Carlos Girls High School Cultural Center.

In line with her administration's population dispersion program, Ms Macapagal said more than 100,000 national government employees would be moved from Metro Manila to new townships in northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao within the decade.



REINFORCEMENTS or retraining, the last being the official line for the arrival in Metro Manila of a battalion of Marines here on Wednesday.

JOAN BONDOC

She also cited the need to relocate about 76,000 "informal settlers" on Metro Manila's sidewalks and roads "to maintain acceptable levels of traffic" in the metropolis.

Her administration's population policy is not just about birth control "but also about creative programs like population dispersion," Ms Macapagal explained.

"The density level in Metro Manila is already approaching unacceptable limits. The cost to sustain the same level of quality of life, with health, sanitation, security, mobility, utility services and the like is simply no longer affordable," she said.

"Schools, water, electricity are limited. It is no longer a matter of whether but a matter of when we need to act," Ms Macapagal said.

The President said she was making Cebu a model of her population dispersion policy.

She cited the programs initiated by former Cebu Gov. Lito Osmeña and continued by current Gov. Pablo Garcia of locating industries outside Cebu City, making Cebu "the richest province in the country through land development."

"Cebu has the highest population growth rate in the country, but it also enjoys the highest income per capita outside Metro Manila," she said.

Osmeña earlier said the Macapagal administration was supporting his proposal to transfer to Cebu at least four government agencies—Department of Tourism, Department of Education, Department of Health and Department of Trade and Industry.

Osmeña, who was recently appointed as a government economic trouble-shooter, said studies were under way on the planned transfer of these national offices to either Medellin or Daanbantayan in northern Cebu.

Bombings shoo off Guinness Book folks

From page A1

the 5.5-meter-long, 2.25-meter-wide and 1.83-meter-high men's shoe in the country's shoe capital.

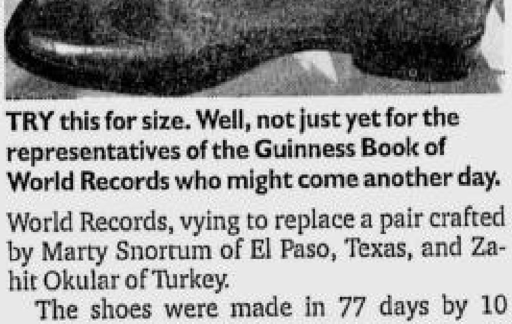
"Among the reasons (for the representatives' non-appearance) perhaps is the bomb scare not only here in the Philippines but in Bali as well," said Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando.

Guinness representatives were not immediately available for comment.

The no-show comes hard on the heels of canceled pop concerts in the Philippines and elsewhere in Southeast Asia by rock groups Oasis and Red Hot Chili Peppers, and jazz guitarist George Benson.

At least 14 people have been killed and almost 200 wounded in bomb attacks in Zamboanga and Manila over the past week. On Oct. 12, more than 180 people died in bomb attacks on nightclubs in the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

The Marikina Colossal Footwear Foundation said it would make the case for the shoe's inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records, vying to replace a pair crafted by Marty Snortum of El Paso, Texas, and Zahit Okular of Turkey.



EDWIN BACASMAS

TRY this for size. Well, not just yet for the representatives of the Guinness Book of World Records who might come another day.

The shoes were made in 77 days by 10 craftsmen at a cost of about P700,000.

Size 753 leather wingtip

The Associated Press said the upper part of the size 753 (based on standard French size) cordovan leather wingtip was made from 96 square meters of genuine leather. Another 96 square meters of leather was used for the lining, and 24 square meters of leather was needed for the sock lining.

Some 250 kg of vegetable tanned leather were used for the insole, another 270 kg for the outsole and 80 kg for the welt.

Organizers said 225 kg of adhesive and 1,000 meters of thread were used to sew 200,000 stitches.

By no means a platform shoe, the Guinness wannabe has a heel height of approximately 41 cm and would be best suited for a 37.5-meter giant.

About 250 pairs of regular-sized shoes could have been produced from the amount of materials used.

Fernando said documents, including videos and newspaper clippings supporting Marikina's claim, had been sent to Guinness' London office and she hoped it would be verified within a month.

The city government is aiming to uplift the country's sagging shoe industry by bagging the world record. *Reuters, AP, AFP*

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    - Hotel del Rio (Iloilo)
    - Marco Hotel (Cagayan de Oro)
    - Marriott Hotel (Cebu)
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Metro bus bomber identified, hunted

From page A1

Yunos is an expert in explosives and trained in Afghanistan and Pakistan where he met Fathur Roman al-Ghozi, the Indonesian now serving a 12-year sentence for masterminding the Dec. 30, 2000 bombing of the Light Railway Transit and other targets that killed more than 20 people and injured more than a hundred.

"Training in explosives takes lot of talent and guts. Yunos and Al-Ghozi have the same talent and the same guts," a source said. Both are in their early 30s.

One of the sources also said that Yunos, Al-Ghozi and Riduan Isamuddin alias Hambali, leader of the Jemaah Islamiah in Malaysia, had met at one of the training camps in Afghanistan. Jemaah Islamiah, a regional Islamic militant group with close ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, is suspected of involvement in the terrorist attack on Bali, Indonesia, which claimed the lives of at least 190 people, mostly foreigners.

Hambali, who is wanted in Malaysia and Indonesia, was also sighted in Mindanao in 2000 and again last year, according to the sources. Yunos was reportedly seen in Quiapo, Manila, sometime this month, but this report was never confirmed.

Camp Abubakar

The sources said Yunos "is a key" in the government efforts to stop the bombings. "Yunos was responsible for bringing Al-Ghozi to train at Camp Abubakar, then the stronghold of the MILF, in 1996," the sources said. Yunos also facilitated Al-Ghozi's other "visits" to Camp Abubakar where he "trained" in military warfare.

An intelligence assessment report said Al-Ghozi also stayed at Camp Abubakar in March 1998. He later visited other provinces in Mindanao. He left for Indonesia after six months.

Al-Ghozi went back to Mindanao in March 1999 and stayed there for three months. He came back to the Philippines in October 2000 and left in January 2001 for Singapore.

Upon orders of Hambale, Al-Ghozi came back to the Philippines to "procure" explosives in Cebu in November last year. He was arrested on Jan. 15, 2002 in Quiapo.

But of the five tons of explosives allegedly listed as "sold" by dealers in Cebu to Al-Ghozi's group, only one ton has been recovered from a warehouse in General Santos City.

Prelude to big bang

The sources said the series of bombings in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila could be a prelude to a "big bang."

They said the same pattern was "established" by the terrorists who set off a series of "explosions" in Metro Manila before they bombed the LRT and other targets 21 months ago.

"They always conduct rehearsals or tests," the sources said, noting that this was the same pattern made by Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, leader of the first al-Qaida cell in the Philippines that plotted the assassination of Pope John Paul II in January 1995. Yousef is serving a 240-year sentence in an American prison.

Intelligence units are now conducting an assessment of potential targets of the terrorists.

"The targets could be symbolic, like a Catholic church. They (terrorist) may also consider the density of potential casualties and they are looking for the presence of Westerners," one of the sources said.

"They will not bomb just like that. They are looking for impact," he said.

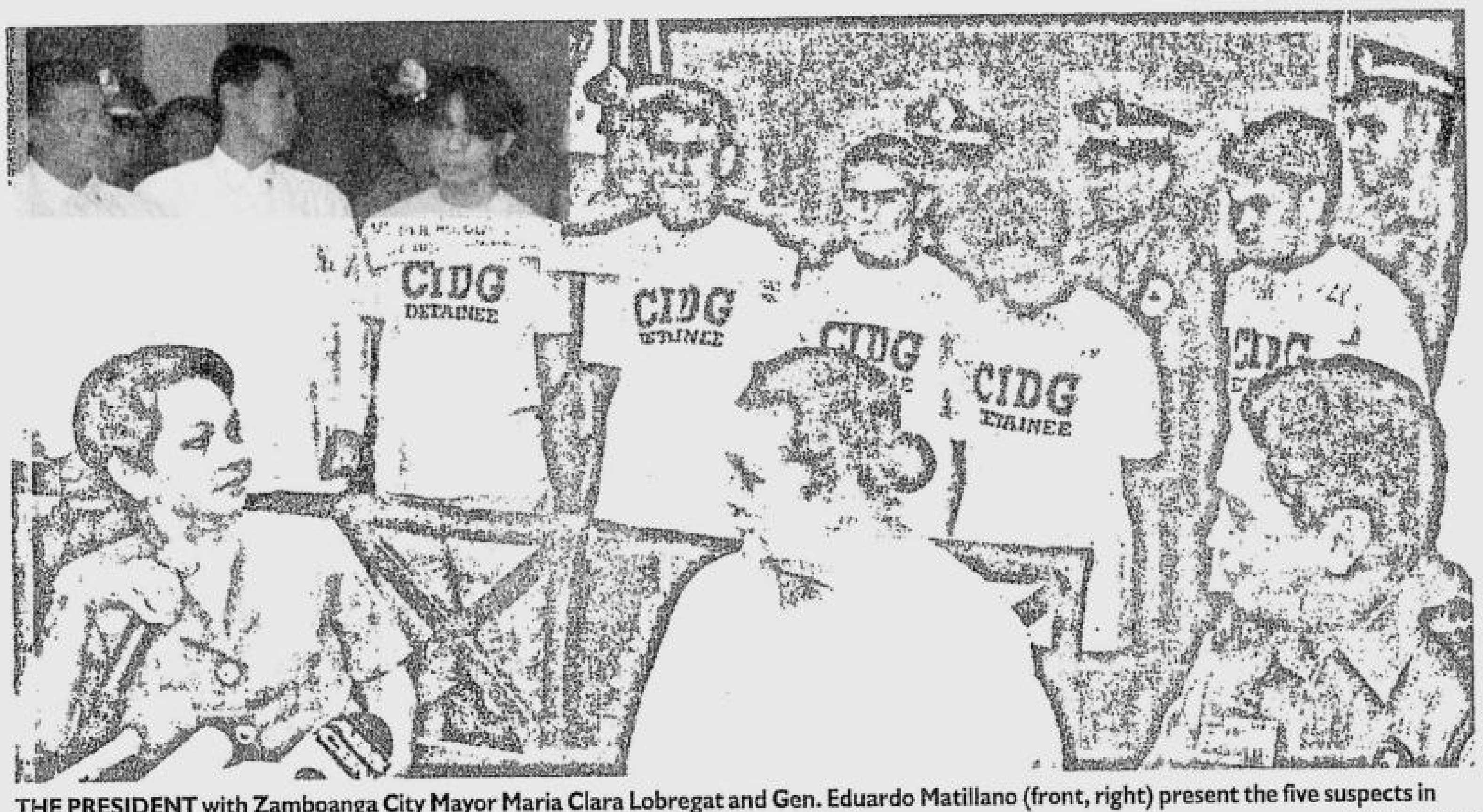
But the sources also admitted that while the "pattern" had been established, pinpointing the "target" or predicting when the terrorists would strike "is impossible."

"They strike when they have the opportunity and the capability and sometimes, regional coordination also contributes (to the decision to strike)," one of the sources said.

Authorities have warned the public against unattended packages or bags which may contain explosives, and to call 117 immediately in case they see "unusual" packages.

This month, the country was hit by five deadly explosions. On Oct. 2, a bomb exploded in Malagutay, Zamboanga City, killing an American soldier and three Filipinos. Six other people were killed and more than 20 wounded in a similar attack in Kidapawan City on Oct. 10. Three days later, explosions at two department stores in Zamboanga City left seven dead and more than a hundred injured.

On Oct. 17, a bomb shattered a bus on Edsa in Quezon City, killing two and injuring 20 others. Two days later, a bomb rocked the Fort Pilar shrine, killing a Marine soldier and two others.



THE PRESIDENT with Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat and Gen. Eduardo Matillano (front, right) present the five suspects in the bombings of Fort Pilar and the Zamboanga shopping centers in Villamor Air Base. ROGER MARGALLO

Loi accuses Inquirer of biased reporting

WITHOUT naming the INQUIRER, former First Lady and Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada yesterday rapped the "one newspaper prone to sensationalism" for "totally downplaying" reports that debunked allegations made by intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus 14 months ago about the millions of dollars that she, her husband and Sen. Panfilo Lacson allegedly kept in banks abroad.

She added that this "reinforces the perception of many of our people of the deeply seated bias of major media establishments against my family."

"That they chose to downplay, if not totally ignore, news reports debunking negative and sensational propaganda against us, is a sad commentary on media today," Ejercito said.

She added: "Why must our people be denied the truth?"

In a press kit distributed together with a copy of her privileged speech, Ejercito included a photo copy of the Aug. 5, 2001 banner story of the INQUIRER with the headline "Ping has $211 million US."

Also included was a copy of the Aug. 7 banner story on Ejercito and Lacson's privileged speech dispelling Corpus' charges, calling their accusers "stupid."

"Since then, Colonel Corpus has not presented any strong evidence and this newspaper, it suddenly dropped the story," Ejercito-Estrada charged.

Ejercito underscored that "the power of media must be accompanied by some responsibility and this we should remind them today."

"Power without accountability can lead to chaos, deception and weaken all our institutions," she said.

Ejercito charged that "segments of the mainstream media were so quick and bold in coming out with the story of the alleged bank accounts but not humble enough to openly accept that they were duped by the wily Colonel Corpus and his ilk."

Senators hit intelligence agencies

From page A1

fabulous claim that my husband and Sen. Lacson jointly owned six Citibank acccounts in Hong Kong amounting to $118,833, 107.70 and another Citibank account allegedly owned by my husband with an outstanding balance amounting to $336,421, 250.16."

The former first lady asked Corpus to resign.

Not enough info

On the intelligence briefing, Senate President Franklin Drilon confirmed that senators who attended it were not satisfied with the general presentation made by the intelligence community.

Drilon said they were not provided sufficient information on how the intelligence funds were being used.

"The purpose of the oversight committee on intelligence funds is precisely to examine behind closed doors the use of the intelligence funds," the Senate President said.

"I hope that the intelligence community understands what that means. That means that you must give the senators a total picture of how the funds are being used, behind closed doors," he added.

On top of situation

Drilon agreed with the impression of opposition senators present that nobody was indeed on top of the situation, thus the spate of bombing attacks in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda said the intelligence officials failed to make a good accounting of funds and explain how these were being spent.

Legarda said she was inclined to immediately approve the request for additional funds of the intelligence community as contained in the proposed national budget for next year.

"Maybe they have been misused or there was misallocation," she said. "I think they have a lot of accounting and justification to do.

No conductor

Opposition senators also proposed the adoption of one central intelligence agency to coordinate intelligence efforts of the government to effectively address security threats in the country.

Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Gregorio Honasan and Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III stressed the need for appointing one central intelligence body that will oversee the operations of all intelligence services.

Biazon likened the state of the intelligence services of the government to an orchestra without a conductor.

He said the government should not necessarily create a new super body to do this task but merely assign an already existing one.

Honasan and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said they were filing a joint resolution seeking to make the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica)to do this job.

Honasan said the resolution will seek to strengthen the capability as well as to consolidate all intelligence-gathering effort of the government to the Nica.

Honasan pointed out that the state of terrorism in the country has risen to alarming levels due to the lack of planning and coordination of the government's intelligence community.

"No amount of specialized police and military forces can curb the atrocities committed or to be committed by local terrorist groups unless the government strengthens its intelligence work and consolidates and processes the raw data gathered by the different intelligence units," he said.

Magsaysay said there was a need for Nica to come up with a strong intelligence database on a regular basis to guide the President.

Sen. Manny Villar said the proposed central intelligence body should see to it that there would be no overlapping of functions of spy agencies because of the tight budget of the government.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel questioned the capability of the intelligence services to forewarn people about incoming dangers.

Pimentel said that even Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes admitted the deficiencies in intelligence-gathering ability of intelligence units.

Detained Indon top Jemaah Islamiah leader

From page A1

ordered to pay a fine of P500,000.

"It has come out that Agus Dwikarna is one of the highest officers of Jemaah Islamiah," Perez told reporters.

"We convicted him. Now, it is coming out that he is a big-time figure in the JI (Jemaah Islamiah)," the justice secretary said, without giving details.

According to officials, Dwikarna had also been implicated in the Rizal Day bombing attacks that claimed 22 lives in Metro Manila in December 2000 and in a bomb attack on the Philippine Embassy in Indonesia earlier that year. The Indonesian, however, has never been prosecuted for either attack.

Indonesia's national police chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar has described the Oct. 12 Bali bombing, which killed at least 190 people, as having similarities to previous Jemaah Islamiah operations.

Jemaah Islamiah, which has been linked to the al-Qaida network of terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden, has been accused of plotting terror attacks in the region in a bid to establish a theocratic Islamic state covering Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

Dwikarna was arrested along with two other Indonesians on March 13 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport while they were about to board a flight to Bangkok. His two companions were later freed and deported.

Perez said there had been pressure from some Indonesian officials for Dwikarna's release but the Philippines refused because of the strong evidence against him.

He also said certain Cabinet officials had suggested that Dwikarna be freed to improve Philippine relations with Indonesia.

"I told them, 'Why are we worried about good relations if this is the man who is planning to bomb us,'" Perez recalled. He refused to identify the Cabinet officials.

In August, however, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople visited Jakarta and discussed with his Indonesian counterpart the idea of allowing Indonesia prisoners to serve in prison sentences imposed by Philippine courts in their home country, and vice versa.

Not yet qualified

But Perez said Dwikarna was not yet qualified for any prisoner-swap arrangement since his case for illegal possession of explosives was then pending before the Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

"Any such arrangement can only apply to those who were already convicted by final judgment," Perez explained.

Police, military and immigration agents had seized from Dwikarna and his two companions two oval-shaped C-4 plastic explosives and five detonating cords.

Dwikarna, Abdul Jamal Balfas and Tamsil Lin Rung were charged with illegal possession of explosives and violation of immigration laws.

The Pasay RTC Branch 117 released Dwikarna's two companions upon a motion by state prosecutors. The Palace later admitted that Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri had interceded on their behalf.

Dwikarna, however, was found guilty of the explosives charge on July 12. Earlier this month, the court dismissed his motion for reconsideration. He is now detained in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida earlier said that a suspected terrorist arrested in Singapore had also implicated Dwikarna in the December 2000 bombings in Manila as well as the August 2000 bombing that seriously wounded Philippine Ambassador to Jakarta Leonides Caday.

Calida said the witness belonged to a terrorist group allied with Jemaah Islamiah. *With a report from AFP*

ONE down. Indonesian national Agus Dwikania does not take to the guilty verdict handed down by the Pasay RTC branch 117 for possession of explosives. ERIK ARAZAS

Zambo bombers . . .

From page A1

legedly plotting another attack in Western Mindanao's major port city of 600,000. Two of the suspects are from Basilan, two from Sulu, and one from Tawi-Tawi.

Officials said the suspects had admitted taking part in last Thursday's bombings of two department stores in downtown Zamboanga that killed seven people and wounded 152 others as well as Sunday's bombing of the Catholic shrine at Fort Pilar that killed a Philippine Marine and wounded 18.

Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, regional police commander, said the arrested men also told investigators that their colleagues were behind the Oct. 2 blast in Barangay Malagutay that killed an American soldier and three Filipinos.

Police said they had seized from the alleged bombers a map of Zamboanga, two .45 cal. pistols, explosive chemicals, mails, tools, camouflage uniforms, a bottle of gasoline and a diagram on how to make a car bomb.

"Without being detailed, I think it is also important to reveal that they were virtually caught in the act of preparing for the next bombing," the President said at the news conference televised nationwide. "I'd like to congratulate the intelligence people who did this."

Suspects

First to fall were Abdul Jamin Asanul Habi, 18; Bas Jumail, 18; Madznul Abdula Ladja, 23; Buyungan Bungkak, 19. They were arrested at a boarding house in Barangay Guiwan about 12:15 p.m. Tuesday. Rajak Sagumayan, 27, was arrested on Tomas Claudio Street three hours later.

Police said the five were members of the Abu Sayyaf, a Moro bandit group that Manila and Washington have linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Breakthrough

"We have established that Abu Sayyaf is connected to Jemaah Islamiah and al-Qaida. These suspects are Abu Sayyaf," said Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, head of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"It's a major breakthrough for us," Dizon said of the arrests.

Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, head of the PNP Intelligence Group, said he believed the arrests had substantially disrupted plans by militants to attack other targets in Mindanao, but urged the public to remain vigilant.

Matillano said multiple charges of murder and frustrated murder were being readied against the suspects who, according to him, claimed they were acting on orders by Abu Sulaiman, one of the Abu Sayyaf's leaders.

He said police seized documents that bolstered the assessment that the men were planning more attacks.

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said investigators had not established any foreign connection to the group so far.

Police confiscated from the suspects a voucher for packages left at the bombed Shop-o-Rama department store and a receipt for the bicycle believed used in the shrine bombing.

Zamboanga officials said the boarding house had been rented Oct. 9 and that up to nine people were seen meeting there. Group members were seen tinkering with several cell phones and alarm clocks, which were recovered during the raid.

There has been speculation that a bomb in Metro Manila on Friday may have been triggered using a cell phone.

Owner of house

The owner of the boarding house where the five had stayed said they had told him they were students and that their parents were traders in Manila.

One of the suspects "even bragged and told the other boarders that they were at Shop-o-Rama where the bomb went off," the landlord said.

Witnesses have told police they saw at least one of the detained suspects park a bicycle rigged with a bomb next to a Roman Catholic shrine on Sunday.

Zamboanga served as the hub of a joint US-Philippines military campaign earlier this year against the Abu Sayyaf. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Return Luna painting, Nat'l Museum asks Christie's

NAKPIL-BAUTISTA in Quiapo recalls the gracious "city of our affections."

ERIK ARAZAS

From page A1

irmed to the INQUIRER that the Luna shipment lacked the necessary export permit from the National Museum.

It was also misrepresented by its freight forwarder as a shipment "for exhibition," according to the customs official at the Naia.

He said it should have been declared as a piece for export if it were to be sold in an auction.

"It's true that they didn't have an export permit. But how can the examiners stop the shipment when it was misrepresented as a shipment for exhibition and not for export?" the official told the INQUIRER.

Illegal export

"The exportation is illegal. (Its papers) made it appear that the shipment, a part of the country's cultural heritage, would be brought back in after its exhibition," the source said on condition that he would not be named.

The Bureau of Customs is currently conducting an investigation into the irregular shipment of the Luna painting, which Christie's has christened "Parisian Night in its auction notes."

The alleged forwarder, Moving Lane Freight Forwarders, has been summoned to shed light on the identity of the actual exporter of the controversial painting and other particulars of the exportation.

"The examiners knew that it was a piece of the country's cultural heritage but they were made to believe that it would be returned after its exhibition overseas," the Customs official said.

Christie's confirms

Salcedo said Christie's "made representations" with the National Museum when the controversy about Luna's "Parisian Life" broke.

"We were informed by Christie's that the painting is indeed with them for auction," Salcedo said.

Salcedo said the National Museum wants the painting back so that it can be registered and covered with the proper export permit.

He said that because the Luna in question, notwithstanding its historical value, is neither listed as a "national cultural treasure" nor an "important cultural property," it can still be sold at the Christie's auction if there is no court order prohibiting the auction.

"If we get a court order to hold the painting, we will," Salcedo said.

Owners can go to court

Salcedo said it is up to whoever claims ownership of the Luna to file a case in court to stop the sale.

Salcedo said the matriarch of the Nakpil clan who claims ownership of the oil painting may opt to do that if she wants to stop the sale.

Francisca Nakpil-de Lange, 96, and her sister Mercedes Nakpil-Zialcita, expressed shock at the impending auction, saying the painting was only borrowed from its ancestral home, Bahay Nakpil Bautista in Quiapo.

The Nakpil sisters are the surviving daughters of Katipunan composer Julio Nakpil and his wife Gregoria de Jesus, the muse (Lakambini) of the Katipunan and widow of Andres Bonifacio.

The painting, which depicts Luna and his close friends Jose Rizal and Dr. Anton Bautista Lin in a café in Paris sometime in 1892, was given to Bautista before Luna died.

Bautista's wife Petrona was the sister of Julio and Ramon Nakpil. A descendant of Ramon Nakpil's branch of the clan is reportedly behind the sale of the painting as part of his "inheritance."

Affidavit of ownership

But Salcedo said that before the National Museum issues an export permit for the Luna painting, it will require an "affidavit of ownership."

As of now, he said, the National Museum does not really know who "owns" the Luna painting because the supposed owners neither registered it nor sought an export permit.

He said National Museum Director Corazon Albina has asked the Bureau of Customs to explain how and why the painting was taken out of the country.

He said the initial explanation was that it was allowed by the customs bureau because it was declared "for exhibition only."

Salcedo said Albina expressed the National Museum's stand on the Luna painting in a letter to the director of the BOC dated Oct. 14.

Then Customs District Collector Celso Templo asked for "guidance as to what cultural properties, important cultural properties and National Cultural Treasures" were.

The inquiry was apparently prompted by the objection posited by Kim Camacho, wife of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and country representative of Sotheby's, Christie's rival.

Classifications

Salcedo said the following is the position of the National Museum on the Luna controversy:

- "Parisian Life," an oil canvass done by Juan Luna (1857-1899), is definitely not a "National Cultural Treasure" because it has not been declared as one; it does not fall within the classification "Important Cultural Property" as defined in PD (presidential decree) 374.
- Since it is over a hundred years old, however, it automatically falls under the category of "cultural properties." It is interesting to note that the law is not specially specific such that works of national artists may likewise be included in the roster of cultural properties since "production has ceased, they have therefore, become or are becoming rare."
- The said painting was never registered by the National Museum nor was it ever issued an Export Permit by the director of the National Museum as called for in Section 10 of PD 374. In short, it did not pass through the process required by the National Museum.
- The decree which was passed on Jan. 10, 1974 or some 28 years has been found to be "loose" and "wanting" in some areas; thus it could be subject to a number of interpretations, as in the case of registration.

The National Museum is hesitant to force or impose on the public the idea of registering their privately owned paintings or collections. Such registration is voluntary at this point in time until mechanisms are set up sensitive to private ownership.

Salcedo would not say that the non-classification of the Luna painting as a national treasure or even an important cultural property is more of an oversight, as expressed by National Museum consultant John Silva.

But Salcedo said there is a panel that had been formed to determine just what is the controversial Luna, described by Christie's as a "work of art of rare intrinsic beauty."

But the panel has yet to meet.

PEA executive ...

From page A1

finite leave over the P1.1-billion "Road to Perdition" controversy, made the statement following reports that President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted the PEA board to resign.

Tuazon clarified that he would resign from the PEA the moment the Senate blue ribbon committee gave its verdict, and "regardless of the outcome of the investigation." But not until then, he said, because "our reputation is at stake."

"We are not leeches clinging to our position. We only want to vindicate ourselves," Tuazon said in a phone interview.

The President on Monday urged the PEA directors to resign. This did not sit well with Tuazon, who had served three terms in Congress.

"The moment the investigation is concluded, I will not stay a minute longer. But we should be given the opportunity and time to explain this whole thing," he said.

He said other PEA directors shared his position.

Guilty

Tuazon said the PEA directors were "for all intents and purposes resigned" because they went on indefinite leave of absence on Sept. 25. He said one reason deterred him from resigning. "My (former) constituents think that I'm guilty," he said. "Nobody has a right to tarnish my reputation."

Tuazon bewailed calls for members of the PEA board to resign. "Why do they want us to resign? Since we are on indefinite leave, we are not receiving any salary, any benefit, any privileges. We have not even gone to the PEA (since then) so what's the hullabaloo?" he said.

Tuazon was among those charged with plunder by Sulficio Tagud Jr., the PEA director who blew the whistle on the alleged scam.

Plunder complaint

More personalities, most of whom are no longer in the government, will be made to answer charges of irregularities over the alleged overpricing of the boulevard.

Tagud, along with his supporters in the civil society movement, said an amended complaint to be filed next week would include the "old PEA board" and officials of the Government Service Insurance System. The new names will be added to the 17 respondents cited by the plunder complaint they filed with the Ombudsman on Oct. 3.

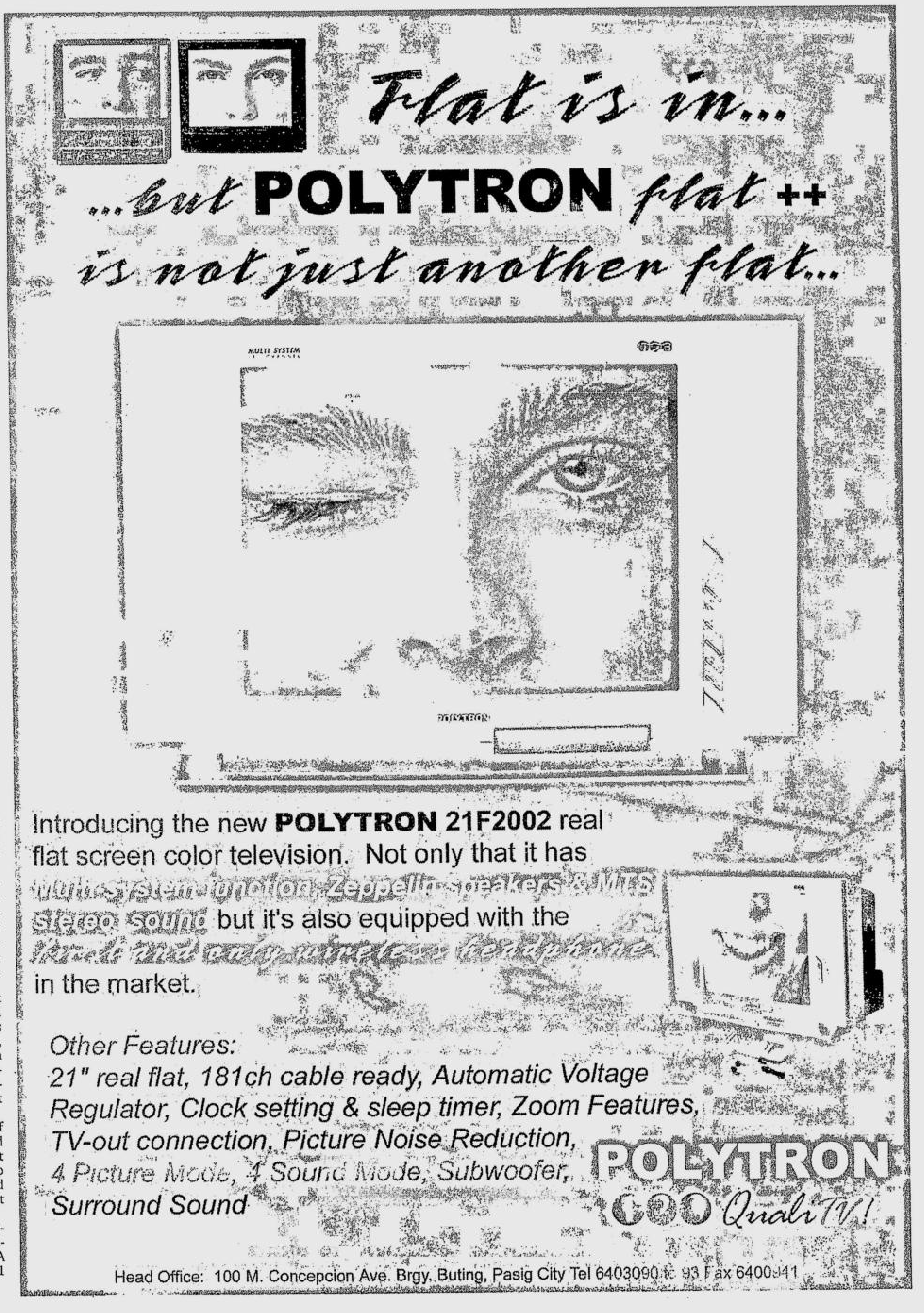
Tagud said the expansion of the complaint's coverage was based on the premise that the contract awarded to JD Legaspi Construction for a 2.3-km portion of the road already violated bidding procedures during the term of the old PEA board.

At a press conference, he said the PEA violated Presidential Decree No. 1594 when it formed a four-man ad hoc committee to oversee the bidding and disregarded the PEA's own Pre-Qualification, Bid and Award Committee. That ad hoc committee was composed of Manuel Beriña Jr., Theron Lacson, Bernardo Viray and Ernesto Enriquez.

The same law also required that the PEA look for potential contractors from a "list of qualified firms" coming from the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board. But instead, Tagud noted, the PEA based its choices on a list of bidders from Arturo Santos, a project director of the Department of Public Works and Highways "whose expertise is vertical or building construction, not horizontal or road works."

As to the culpability of the GSIS, Ferdie Gaite of Courage, one of Tagud's 15 co-complainants, said the pension agency violated its own investment guidelines when it approved a P1.1-billion loan to PEA for the PDMB project. GSIS is only authorized to lend an amount equal to 10 percent of the net worth of the borrowing entity, according to Gaite.

When the PEA was granted the loan in August 2001, its net worth was only P5.72 billion. Hence, the authorized GSIS loan for PEA should have been only P572 million, not P1.1 billion, according to Gaite.



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'Careful with that money'

Monico tells PSC: Be stricter in the future

By Marc Anthony Reyes

REP. Monico Puentevella yesterday directed the Philippine Sports Commission to come up **with stricter, more detailed guidelines in handing out financial assistance to national sports associations.**

The chair of the House committee on youth and sports said such a move will prevent what he termed as "boo-boos" that happened in the recent Busan Asian Games, particularly in baseball, soft tennis, tennis, athletics, billiards and cycling.

On top of the list of "lapses," said the Bacolod solon, was the one cited by AMF Puyat Sports' Aristeo "Putch" Puyat who claimed that Django Bustamante and Bata Reyes should have won at least three gold medals had they been entered in their favorite 9-ball event.

Puyat, manager of the top cue artists, said the decision by the Billiards and Snookers Congress of the Philippines to put Django only in the 9-ball doubles (which he won alongside Antonio Lining) and Bata in the 8-ball event was questionable.

"We have the best 9-ball players in the world, why didn't they enter them in that event where we have the best chances to win golds," said Puyat.

BSCP wasn't represented in the hearing.

Puentevella also lauded athletics chief Go Teng Kok and soft tennis boss Tony Tamayo for "quickly effecting drastic measures" after both sacked national coaches responsible for blunders that included their failure to submit entry forms for the athletes during the Games.

Rep. Harry Angping, who is also the president of the softball association, announced that he just disbanded the team and sacked the coach after the squad failed to score a single run in Busan.

PSC chair Eric Buhain said that the agency is fast-tracking the creation of a criteria that would consider every minute detail of the NSA request before releasing financial support.

JESS: "Football most popular item." EGAY MONTANA

Jess best 'gift' from Germany

By Roy Luarca

OTHER than its quality cars like the Benzes and BMWs, the Federal Republic of Germany has always been known for football excellence.

No wonder, the German government has chosen football as a vehicle for peace in the Philippines and other developing nations where it has strong diplomatic relations with.

"We want to export our enthusiasm for football," Ambassador Herbert Jess told the INQUIRER yesterday. "We have a quality product and I think football is the most popular item."

Along this line, Germany, through the German Development Cooperation (GTZ), recently tied up with Kasibulan, the grassroots development program of the Philippine Football Federation, in launching a project aimed at having Muslims and Christians organize and play youth football matches in the conflict areas of Mindanao.

Dubbed "Gift," it stands for German Initiative in Football Towards Peace in Mindanao. A fitting "gift," indeed, as it carries with it equipment and funding for local football.

Helpful

"We are really proud that we could be helpful and we look forward to successes," said Jess.

He knows, of course, that Gift's success won't come overnight, but in a gradual, systematic way. Focused on the younger generation, it will take years before the overall effect of the project becomes discernible, if not visible.

But the good ambassador is willing to wait.

"This (Gift) is something worthwhile to promote. It is a tool for reconciliation and the peace building process," he said.

Intended to break political and cultural barriers through playing the game of football, Gift will pit children who are products of Kasibulan and will entail the help of local governments and the Muslim and Christian communities alike.

Tubod Baroy in Lanao del Norte, bomb-rocked Zamboanga City and Cotabato City were identified as launching pads for the Gift project, which would eventually expand to 15 localities identified as conflict areas.

The link between GTZ and Kasibulan, centered on children 6-12 years old, is Bernd Fischer, an economist and a former football coach of the national teams of Indonesia, Ethiopia, Bermuda and Sierra Leone.

Lecturer

Fischer is also a regular lecturer at the Hennef International Coaching Course, one of the toughest courses for sports mentors in the world.

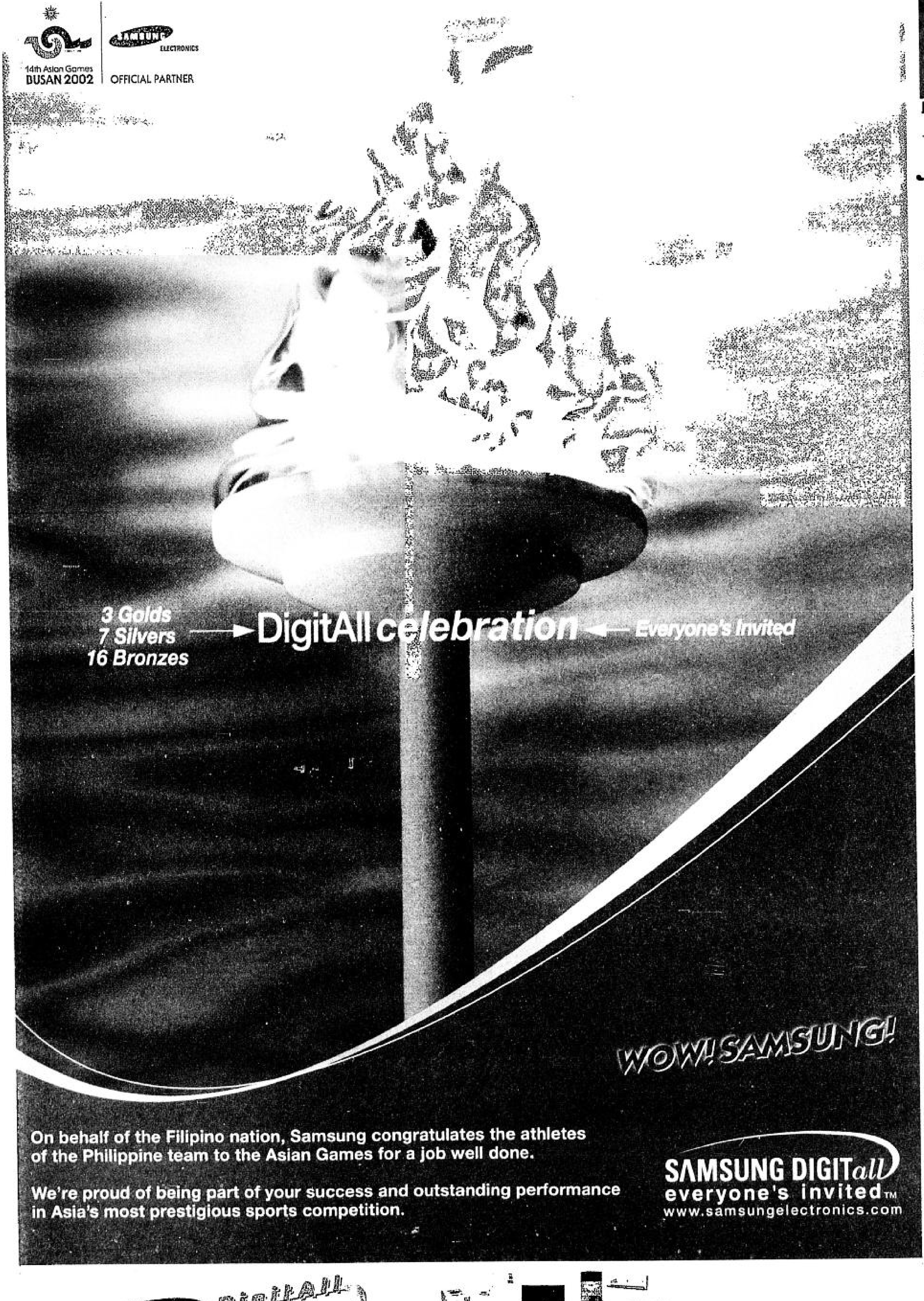
Since Fischer's contract is about to expire, Jess said he had made representations with his government to extend Fischer's stint in the country so as not to disrupt the progress of what he began in 1999, when the Philippine Football Federation headed by Rene Adad engaged his services to help in the formulation of its development program.

"We're very positive that the response would be favorable," said Jess. "The program is in place and we've reached a level that we can enhance further."

Future plans include the identification of talents who could be sent for specialized training abroad.

For now, however, Jess is content that the first step, which was to build a bigger base of Filipino players through a grassroots program at the youngest age level, has been taken.

The big rewards, surely, could come later.



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SELECTA ALL-FILIPINO

Alaska noses out Shell

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Talk N Text

ALASKA escaped with a 69-67 squeaker over Shell, thanks to a flubbed three-pointer by Chris Jackson at the buzzer last night in the Selecta-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Set up for a game-clinching triple on the right flank, Jackson saw his trey rattle off the rim, allowing the Aces to register their first win and tie San Miguel Beer and Purefoods for the early lead.

"It's like a Korea situation all over again," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, whose wards still had three fouls to give when Jackson launched his desperation three.

Cone also admitted that he had two timeouts to call but pointed out his disbelief on instructing a timeout when the ball is on enemy hands at the last second.

"We're very fortunate that Jackson missed. But we should have defended well to prevent Jackson from taking that shot," said Cone.

John Arigo, Rob Duat and Ali Peek sparkled for the Aces, who missed the services of franchise player Kenneth Duremdes.

The Alaska management gave the 6-foot-3 Duremdes more than a week's rest after the 1996 PBA MVP recently played for the national team which placed fourth in the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

"He deserves a rest. I know what's like to play for the country in the Asian Games. It's really draining," said Cone, who steered the Philippines to a bronze-medal finish in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

Duremdes will join the Aces in practice today and see action on Sunday against Batang Red Bull.

Willie Miller masterminded a huge uprising in the final period as Batang Red Bull turned back Coca-Cola, 76-70, in the second game.

Scores:

ALASKA 69—Arigo 21, Peek 12, Duat 11, Felhi 10, Santos 5, Allado 4, Noble 2, Ordonio 2, Lastimosa 2

SHELL 67—Wainwright 14m Calaguio 12, Jackson 11, Singson 9, Hrabak 5, Bacani 5, Marzan 4, Dela Cruz 3, Esplana 2, Canlas 2.

Quarters: 19-17, 35-30, 54-50, 69-67.

ALASKA'S Ali Peek (right) keeps the ball away from Shell's Chris Jackson.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Crucial 'Battle of Champs' games today

GAMES TODAY: 2 p.m.—St. Benilde (0-2) vs UE (1-1)
4 p.m.—San Sebastian (1-1) vs Ateneo (2-0)

THE BATTLE of Champions Benefit Games of the NCAA and UAAP resumes today with the last day of the semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

St. Benilde will try to avenge its 57-72 loss in the eliminations when it meets UE at 2 p.m.

NCAA MVP and Blazers' main man Sunday Salvacion is expected to suit up together with Jan Coching for the first time in the tournament after their VisMin stint in the Philippine Basketball League.

In the 4 p.m. main game, NCAA champion San Sebastian will try to even the score with UAAP champion Ateneo and secure a seat in the best-of-three Finals. The Stags are likewie banking on the return of two players, ace playmaker Christian Coronel and big man Jam Alfad.

The only complication-free combinations are victories today of both UAAP teams, which will have an Ateneo-UE Finals, or both NCAA teams, which will result into an Ateneo-San Sebastian meeting.

Meanwhile, coaches have been named for the four teams seeing action in the All-Star Games that will serve as culminating activity of the Benefit Games on Oct. 29 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Joel Banal will coach the UAAP All-Star North made up of players from Ateneo, UST, FEU, and UP.

On the other hand, Boyzie Zamar will coach the UAAP all-Star South made up of players from La Salle, UE, Adamson, and NU.

Turo Valenzona will coach the NCAA All-Star East made up of players from San Sebastian, Mapua, Letran, and San Beda.

Dong Vergeire will coach the NCAA All-Star West made up of players from St.. Benilde, PCU, JRU, and UPHR.

All coaches have teams vying for finals seats in the Benefit Games.

Blu prevails

CEBU CITY— Blu All Purpose turned back Montaña Pawnshop, 77-73, Tuesday to capture the PBL-CBF Dual Meet II crown at the University of San Carlos Gym here.

Sister team Regent-Shark got the needed firepower from Mark Magsumbol, Nani Epodulan and Gerald Ortega to beat Cebuana Lhuillier, 82-75, and claim third place.

Marlon Legaspi, adjudged the Most Valuable Player, was a non-factor in the early going but lead his Blu teammates in the final half, scattering 11 of his 13 points including three triples.

Mike Garcia, who topscored with 15 points, and Lou Gatumbato also played their share in the Detergent Kings' comeback while defense man Mel Latoreno and Joh Paul Prior provided the finishing touches in sealing their second crown since clinching the PBL-CBF Partnership Cup.

Yao Ming a 'Great Wall'

HOUSTON—The Houston Rockets say they have quickly learned one thing about their new player Yao Ming of China—do not take the ball to the hoop if he is anywhere near it.

In just two practices since arriving in Houston Sunday, the 7-foot-5 center has sent a clear message that he is an imposing presence around the basket and something akin to the Great Wall for anyone who thinks they can dunk over him.

During a five-on-five drill Tuesday at Compaq Center, Houston's home court, high-scoring forward Maurice Taylor flew to the basket with a jam on his mind but Yao, barely off the floor, rejected the ball and sent Taylor crashing in a crumpled heap.

Reuters

6 DAYS TO NBA OPENING ON OCTOBER 30. Did you know that a sixth seed in the NBA Playoffs is the lowest-placed seed to ever win an NBA title? That's the Hakeem Olajuwon-led Houston Rockets of 1995.

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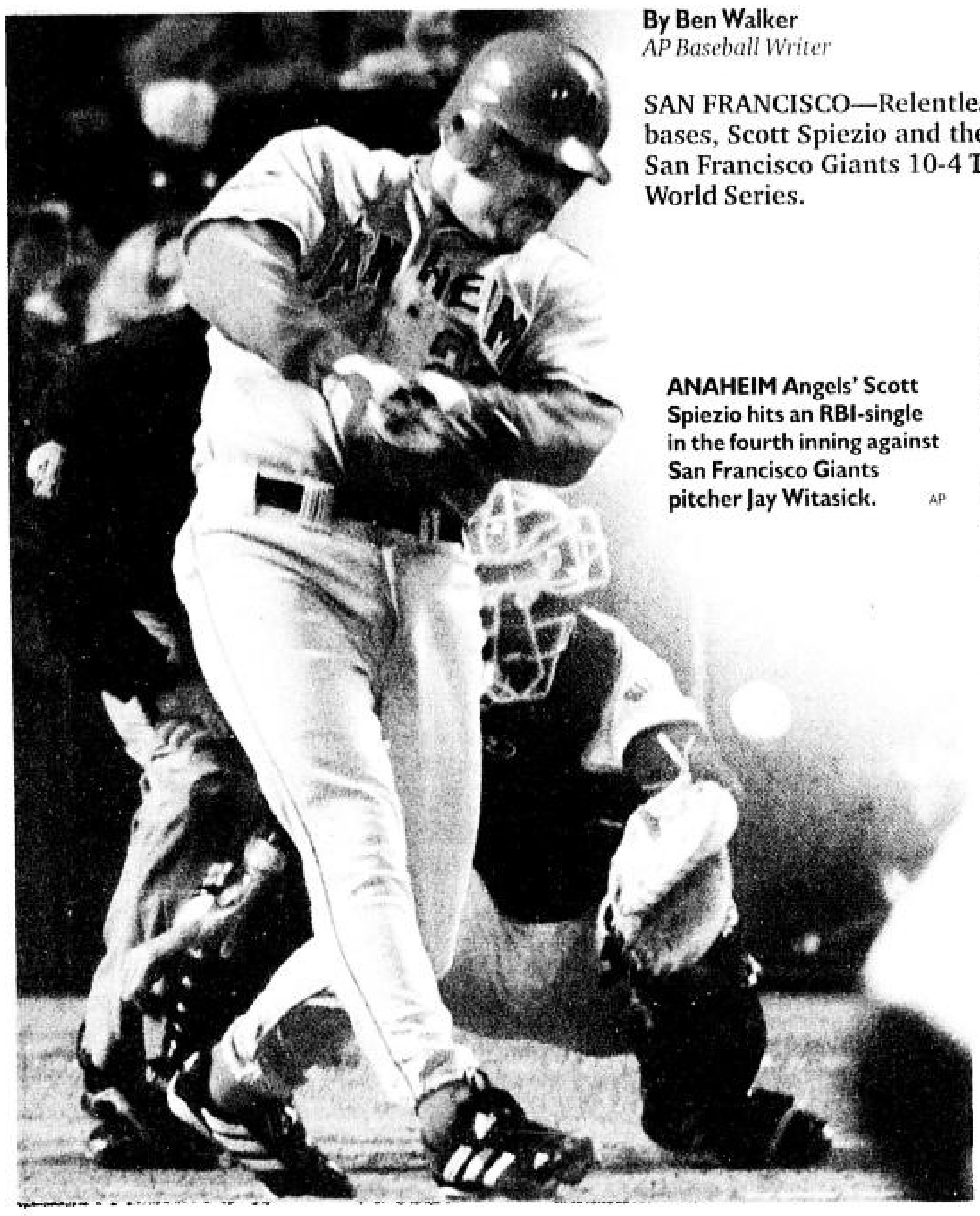
WORLD SERIES

Angels outslug Giants for 2-1 lead



ANAHEIM Angels' Scott Spiezio hits an RBI-single in the fourth inning against San Francisco Giants pitcher Jay Witasick. AP

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—Relentless again at the plate and on the bases, Scott Spiezio and the Anaheim Angels trampled the San Francisco Giants 10-4 Tuesday to take a 2-1 lead in the World Series.

"We're doing the little things it takes to win games. That's why we're here," Spiezio said.

Spiezio drove in three runs, Darin Erstad had three hits and Anaheim battered Livan Hernandez, the postseason ace who recently boasted, "I never lose in October."

The Angels became the first team in Series history to bat around in consecutive innings, with a flood of hits, walks and steals making it 8-1 in the fourth inning.

Anaheim finished with 16 hits in keeping up a familiar pattern. They've lost the opener in all three of their postseason series this year, then didn't lose again. After dropping Game 1 to the Giants, they came back to win 11-10.

"We've been through tough times before," Erstad said. "We have it rolling right now."

"It was a tough night for us," San Francisco manager Dusty Baker said. "They were hitting. They've been hitting the last two games. I don't know, hopefully they hit themselves out, I hope."

Bonds drew two more walks and also set a postseason record with his seventh home run. He become the first player to homer in his first three Series games. His 131-meter (437-foot), two-run shot to center field came in the fourth inning, the same inning Rich Aurilia connected for the Giants, but only made it 8-4.

"We just didn't pitch well, that's it. Bottom line," Bonds said.

With 13 homers already, Anaheim and San Francisco are only four short of the record for any Series. The long balls are sure to further increase speculation that "juiced balls" — harder than average balls — are being used. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig insists it's not so, but the Angels proved little ball works just fine.

Rather, the Angels proved little ball works just fine, too — especially at the major league park where the fewest homers were hit this year.

"We scored a lot of runs today and we didn't hit any home runs. We have a lot of guys that are gap hitters," Spiezio said.

Every Angels starter except winning pitcher Ramon Ortiz got a hit and Anaheim coasted despite setting a nine-inning Series record by leaving 15 runners on base.

"I think we were able to do some of the things we were successful at all season," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Hernandez was chased after 3 2-3 innings, the worst start of a glittery postseason career that had seen him go 6-0. Instead, he looked like the pitcher who tied for the National League lead in losses, which he did with 16.

John Lackey will start for the Angels in Game 4 Wednesday night. He'll be pitching on his 24th birthday against Kirk Rueter.

The fans were ready for fun from the start as Pacific Bell Park hosted its first Series game.

GAME 3 LINESCORES:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
SAN FRANCISCO	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	X	4	6	2
ANAHEIM	0	0	4	4	0	1	0	1	X	10	15	0

Mays' catch leads baseball's most memorable moments

SAN FRANCISCO—Before Game Four of the World Series at Pacific Bell Park Wednesday (Thursday in Manila), Major League Baseball will present the 10 most memorable moments of its 118-year history.

Of the 30 moments voted on by fans, former New York and San Francisco's Willie Mays' spectacular over-the-shoulder catch on a line drive by Cleveland's Vic Wertz to preserve a 2-2 tie in the eighth inning of an eventual 5-2 victory in 1954 stands out to Giants followers.

The then New York Giants (who moved to San Francisco in 1962) went on to sweep the Indians, the last time they won the World Series.

BASEBALL legend Willie Mays (left) is joined by former San Francisco Giants Orlando Cepeda (right) Willie McCovey and Juan Marichel as he throws out the ceremonial first pitch of Game 3 of the World Series in San Francisco. AP

Mays, who lives in San Francisco and is the godfather of Giants slugger Barry Bonds, says the play was a result of an ultra-confident kid who could do no wrong in center field.

"I was very cocky," said Mays. "Everything that went in the air, I thought I could catch. I was very aware of what was going on. "When the ball was coming over the infield, I'm saying to myself, 'Two men on. I've got to get this ball back into the infield'.

"If you see the play, it's like a wide receiver catching a pass going down the sideline, over the left shoulder on the right side. Usually, a wide receiver catches the ball on the right shoulder going down the left side," said Mays.

"So when I'm catching the ball, I'm saying, 'I've got to get it back'. But there wasn't a cut-off man so I threw the ball to second base on the fly."

Mays's game-saving moment is just one of a plethora of plays and developments that have shaped America's oldest sport.

Among some of the most notable moments are Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees setting the record for hitting in 56 consecutive games in 1941 and the Boston Red Sox's Ted Williams finishing the season with a .406 batting average in 1941, the last player to hit over .400.

Also featured are Jackie Robinson becoming the first African American ball player in league history when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers pitching his seventh no-hitter in 1991 and Bonds breaking Mark McGwire's single season home run record on October 5, 2001, with his 71st blast.

Considered by some to be the greatest player ever, Mays was forced to begin his career in the Negro Leagues before baseball began to integrate in 1947. He still feels some historians do not properly appreciate him.

"Every time that comes up, it's always a guy that seems to be an enemy," said Mays, who hit 660 home runs in his career, third on the all-time list behind Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth and 43 ahead of Bonds.

"They had the 'All-Century team' a few years ago and they picked Babe to be number one. I know when I played I could do anything on the field.

"But maybe other people didn't like the way I played, I can't change that. I did everything.

"If that wasn't good enough for people, I've got to move on." These days, the 'Say Hey Kid' rarely tutors Bonds but when Barry was growing up, Mays was a strong influence.

Occasionally, Mays will still impart a word of wisdom or two. "Barry's a tremendous player right now, he doesn't need me," Mays said.

"The only thing Barry needs now is tuning up. Every now and then, he'll get excited about an at bat and I go to him and talk. *Reuters*

Cuban pitcher's luck runs out, takes first playoff loss

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—Cuban pitcher Livan Hernandez's sterling playoff record got its first blemish in Game 3 of the World Series on Tuesday night.

The San Francisco Giants' big-game stopper gave up five hits, five walks and six runs while getting chased in the fourth inning of a 10-4 loss — the first of Hernandez's career after six victories over three trips to the postseason.

The 1997 World Series Most Valuable Player took pride in his postseason prowess. "I never lose in October," he said before the division series against Atlanta.

He'll never say never again, thanks to the Anaheim Angels' relentless lineup — but like any fighter, Hernandez doesn't concede defeat in the Series.

"So I lost," Hernandez said with a shrug. "(Oscar) De La Hoya lost. (Felix) Trinidad lost. I want to win every time, but sometimes it doesn't happen."

HERNANDEZ AP

After retiring the Angels' first five hitters, Hernandez began to struggle. He had difficulty getting out of the second inning, and he came unraveled in the third, throwing 42 pitches and allowing four runs as Anaheim batted around.

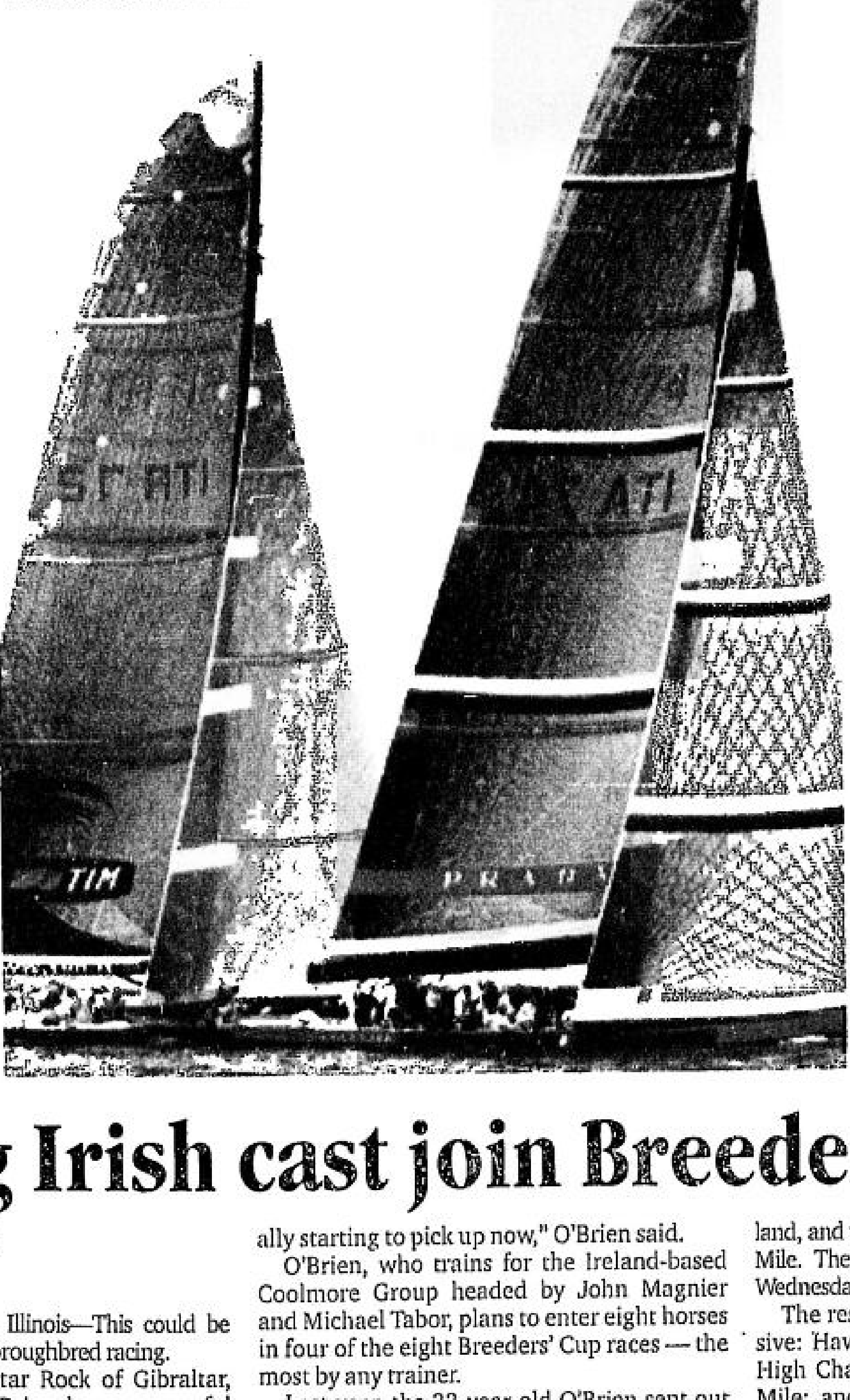
Darin Erstad's double and Scott Spiezio's triple were the biggest blows, but Hernandez thought home plate umpire Tim Tschida's strike zone also hurt — particularly on the inning-opening walk drawn by David Eckstein.

"It was very tight," Hernandez said. "I had to throw the ball down the middle when I didn't get the ones on the corners. I didn't feel like it was a regular strike zone for me."

As Hernandez's control problems extended into the fourth inning, Barry Bonds scratched his chin and grimaced in left field. Working more slowly than normal and frequently shaking off catcher Benito Santiago's signs, he needed 92 pitches to get through 3 2-3 innings.

Hernandez left his last two postseason starts at Pac Bell to a standing ovation.

This time, he jogged off with his head low after manager Dusty Baker pulled him with two outs in the fourth.



ITALIAN entry Prada (right) leads its compatriot Mascalzone Latino windward during their catch-up race from Round Robin One. REUTERS

'Prada' all-Italian winner

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Prada beat Mascalzone Latino by 4 minutes, 28 seconds in an all-Italian match Wednesday to complete the extended first round of challenger racing at the America's Cup.

The win, over a 12.5-nautical-mile course, gave Prada a 4-4 record at the end of the first round and left Mascalzone with a single win from eight races.

Mascalzone won the start by 19 seconds and led for much of the first beat before Prada picked up a wind shift on the right-hand side of the course and crossed ahead.

Prada led by 49 seconds at the first mark and extended downwind to lead by 93 seconds at the second. A huge left hand windshift on the third leg favored Prada and saw the defending challenger champion surge ahead by more than 800 meters.

It rounded the second windward mark 4:31 ahead and coasted to the finish for a morale-boosting win.

Stung by a poor first round performance, Prada made substantial alterations to its race yacht, ITA-74, or Luna Rossa, in seven days set aside for modifications between rounds. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Vinfa's Pride 2. Pabuya 3. Cardinal Rule 4. Key to Heaven

Race 2—1. Tora Tora 2. Run Like D Wind 3. Long Hitter 4. Flower Power 5. Believe It or Not

Race 3—1. Super Sharp 2. Hyperbid 3. Kiwi Rose

Race 4—1. Secret Lover 2. Penthouse 3. Espirikitik 4. Blown Away 5. Magnanimous

Race 5—1. May's Magic 2. St. Emilion 3. Top Jay

Race 6—1. Del Mar/Time Specialist 2. Test Run 3. Pretty Boy Chino 4. Manilaman 5. Hinobaan Boy

Race 7—1. Simply Great 2. Dynamite Jack 3. Green Leaves 4. Witch Craft 5. Trick Shot 6. Full Blast

Race 8—1. Silakbo 2. Holy King 3. Taproot 4. Kitty Bang Bang 5. Best Gift

Race 9—1. Exchange Deal 2. Modern Classic 3. Divine Diva 4. Jessie [illegible]/Perfect Nina 5. Parole Sundee 6. Secret Quest

Strong Irish cast join Breeders' Cup

By Richard Rosenblatt
AP Racing Writer

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Illinois—This could be the year of the Irish in thoroughbred racing.

Led by 3-year-old star Rock of Gibraltar, Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien has a powerful group of horses for the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships at Arlington Park on Saturday.

"It's probably the strongest team of 3-year-olds that we have, and the 2-year-olds are really starting to pick up now," O'Brien said.

O'Brien, who trains for the Ireland-based Coolmore Group headed by John Magnier and Michael Tabor, plans to enter eight horses in four of the eight Breeders' Cup races — the most by any trainer.

Last year, the 33-year-old O'Brien sent out seven horses and came away with his first BC winner, Johannesburg in the Juvenile.

Rock of Gibraltar, co-owned by Manchester United coach Alex Ferguson, has won seven straight Group 1 races in England, France and Ireland, and will run in the 1 1/4-mile Classic or the Mile. The final decision will be announced at Wednesday's draw for post positions.

The rest of the Irish lineup is quite impressive: Hawk Wing in the Mile or the Classic; High Chaparral in the Turf; Landseer in the Mile; and Hold That Tiger, Tomahawk and Van Nistelrooy in the Juvenile. Marino Marini is also possible for the Juvenile. O'Brien pre-entered 10 horses, but Reach for the Moon (Juvenile Fillies) and Ontario (Juvenile) will not be entered.

Siodina shatters Sherwoods mark

By Jong Arcano

CHANGING of the guards? Don't tell that to Mario Siodina.

Showing that the older guns can still fire explosive rounds, the veteran World Cupper did the unthinkable yesterday by establishing a new course record at Sherwood Hills, a seven-under-par 65, to grab the halfway lead in the second leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit.

Just as the young ones seem to have taken over, the 53-year-old Siodina sent a special message in the form of a birdie-laden, error-free round.

He had seven birdies, four in the back where he started, as Siodina played like a thoroughbred once more.

Siodina, who became the first Filipino to play in the cash-rich Fancl Classic in Japan three months ago, stormed ahead by three strokes with his 36-hole aggregate of 138, towing the 25 qualifiers into the money rounds.

Lost in the shadow of Siodina's tremendous jump was the much-awaited return to form of Cassius Casas whose woeful streak of missed cuts, including five abroad and again last week at Sta. Elena, came to an end.

Casas spiked a three-under 69 with an eagle and four birdies to be with former World Cup partner Mars Pucay, carding a 68, in second place at 141.

Japan-based Rey Pagunsan also made his presence felt by scoring three straight birdies from the seventh en route to a 68 for fourth place at 142 while top seed Danny Zarate was joined by Elmer Salvador and Richard Sinfuego at 143.

Zarate, the best performing local player in the Asian Tour this year, and Salvador both matched par 72 while Sinfuego scored a 70.

"*Maganda lang ang pinapalo ko. Kailangan ding maghanda para sa* US Tour qualifying *kasi baka makabawi dun sa nangyari* last year," said Siodina, who reached the final round last year but lost in a playoff for the final spot.

The Cuello brothers, Rodrigo and Rodolfo, Juanito Pagunsan and Peter Minoza, who had figured in a six-way logjam for the lead with Zarate and Salvador, reeled back after scrambling all day.

Rodrigo (73) slid to eighth at 144, Rodolfo (73) followed at 145 in the company of Robert Pactolerin and Mario Manubay while Pagunsan and Miñoza, submitting identical 76s, were with rookie pro Marlon Dizon at 146.

SIODINA

TOUR PILIPINAS

Air21 OKs bikathon

THE CYCLISTS will hit the road again next summer. And expect more.

Bert Lina, chair of the sponsoring Air21 for the coming Tour Pilipinas 2003 cycling marathon, said his company's AirFreight 2100 hopes to send "as soon as possible" Filipino bikers to the fabled Tour de France.

"We are not only after discovering heroes for our local satisfaction," said Lina. "We want to develop world-class cyclists who are capable of competing in the Tour de France.

Lina is giving away P1 million and P200,000 for the winning team and individual champion, respectively—the biggest yet team prize in Philippine cycling history.

The Tour de France is like the NBA in basketball that attracts the cycling legends from all over the world.

The Tour Pilipinas 2003 was launched yesterday at the National Sports Grill in Makati City.

Qualifying races for the Tour are on Nov. 10 and Nov. 17 in Pililia, Rizal, for Luzon aspirants.

Hopefuls from the Visayas and Mindanao will mix it up on Nov. 23 in Argao, Cebu.

Air21 president Lito Alvarez said 14 corporations have signified their intentions to sponsor the teams, which will also shoulder year-round stipends or salaries of riders and coaches.

The next bikathon will consist of 14 stages spread over 17 days totaling 2,234 kilometers from Sorsogon to Ilocos Norte, via Baguio City.

Alvarez said they've learned so much from the dry run held last summer—the FedEx Calabarzon 2002.

7-stag derby today

ALL roads lead to the Mandaluyong Coliseum as the "6th Ucap LCC Leonard 7-Stag Derby" championship round unfolds today. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

Today's frontrunners, who posted three victories each last Tuesday, are Bacolod breeder Otic Geroso (Concierto), Mario Villamor and Bonie Valera (MV Phoenix 1) and lawyer Romero Yu and Danny Ty (Shio Ray Hamed) Liza Galore Firefly of Eddie Araneta tallied 2.5 points. With two victories are entries Chrystel, JT Warriors, Sto. Angel, BPZ CJR Calvin Dominator, KGB LCC, Flyover, King Boxer, Sir Vincent, Guts and Glory, Arnis Master II, Sto. Cristo Jimafer, RT 114, Firebird 1, San Rafael Nov. 26 and 28 and Vic Boy.

The Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2002 winner will also be crowned tonight, and OPMI president Vic Yu is practically assured of bagging the award. His entry King Boxer tallied a total of 28 points so far, comfortably ahead of closest pursuer Alex Tang (Guts and Glory, 24).

For other inquiries, call 531-4005, 531-4003, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

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Architects perennial supporter

FOR THE 11th straight year, Boysen Paints is giving all out support to the Annual Architects' Golf Classic, set to unfold at the Robert Trent Jones layout of Sta. Elena Golf Club on Nov. 18. Tournament organizers, led by chair Mon Mendoza, and president Tom Adarme, hailed the sponsorship as a big boost to the event's continuous growth both in participation and prominence. Other corporate sponsors of the 11th Architects' Golf Classic are Delta Faucet Company, Futura Decor products, Puyat Stell, Puyat Vinyl Products, Urban Hardware, BMGSolar, Crown Asia Compounders, Julant Pest Control, Maramax Lighthouse, MIzuno, Asahi Glass Philippines, Samitrade, Voltage Electrical, Emerald Vinyl, Eterton Multi-Resources and Jackbilt Industries.

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San Diego leads

PHILIPPINE Bowling Association Youth standout RJ San Diego has grabbed the lead in the 6th Chinatrust-Sletba Open Championship at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Bowling Center in Cainta.

San Diego totalled 2275 points to snatch the top spot in the all events category of the Masters division aside from grabbing the upper hand in the singles event with 957 points in the tournament sponsored by Chinatrust Banking Corporation, Sta. Lucia East Grandmall, Freyssinet, New Solanie Hotel, Fuji Films, and Fortune Tobacco.

Sletba's Elmer de Leon also moved up to second overall with 953 while erstwhile leader Che Che Abrantes of TBAM-Prima slipped to third with 910.

PBAP-Bowlmart, composed of Benny Dytoc, Larry Cua, and Busan medalist Botchock Rey, also took control in the team event after rolling a total of 2117.

SPORTSWATCH

Checkmate this Saturday

THE SIXTH series of Milo Checkmate Saturday clinic opens on Saturday at the St. Benedict College (SBC) inside Alabang Hills; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila and Jollibee Branch in Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. The chess classes in SBC will be held at the HS student lounge from 8 a.m.-12 noon; in RMSC—9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Badminton Bldg; while at GSC—2-5 p.m. at Jollibee playing ground. It is open to young chess enthusiasts who are 5 years old and above. For details, call MCC at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069. The organizing Metropolitan Chess Club would like to extend their apologies to the new enrollees for the miscommunication in the time schedule at GSC.

Boxing, Revicon partners

PHILIPPINE boxing and Revicon, the official vitamins of the RP boxers to the Busan Asian GAmes,will remain partners for the year 2003. Despite the boxers' relatively meager one silver medal output, courtesy of Harry Tanamor, in the last Asian Games, Revicon has renewed its partnership with the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) for next year. This was announced by Vitamins Category Head Alvin So at a recent appreciation cocktail party tendered by Revicon for the Asiad delegation at Unilab's main offices in Mandaluyong. "It was the first time that Revicon got involved in boxing and they gave us good results, they gave hope to the country and so we are proud to renew our commitment to support Philippine boxing for next year," said So, citing the year-round supply of Revicon for all the members of the national training pool and support for Abap's grassroots developmental programs in the countryside.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, the Philippine Military Academy beat the Philippine Army, 4-1, to rule the 1st AFP-wide taekwondo championship at Camp Crame gym. Also today in 1990, Gary Tabernilla defeated Raymond Sangil and Chris Guerrero in the extra hole to bag the overall plum of the Jungolf tournament at Camp Aguinaldo course.

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Philta sets Oct. 28 deadline for netfest registration

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association said yesterday the deadline of submission of entries to the Philippine Columbian Association Open Juniors Tennis Championships is on Oct. 28.

Players may contact tournament referee Boy Leonora and Loida Mallare at Philta (5256434) or Bobby Mangunay (0918-933-0448) and Jeng Antaran (0918-9367461) at PCA (5638501 loc. 132, 113, 131). Entry fee is P200 (double entry will be accepted).

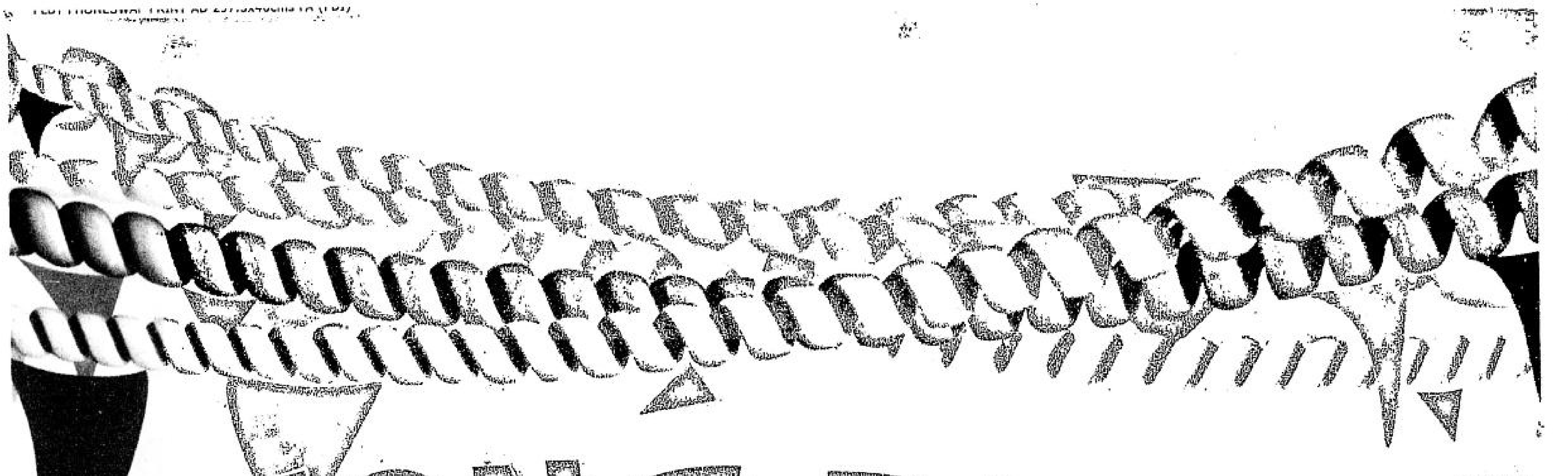
Leading the junior campaigners are Yannick Guba, Irwin de Guzman, Joseph Arcilla, Jandrick de Castro, Kyle Dandan, Raymond Villarete, Ralph Barte, Michael Basco, Joshua Tan HO, Bien Zoleta, Ivy de Castro and Bambi Zoleta.

The first round will be held on Nov. 2-3 while the second round until the quarterfinals will be on Nov. 8-10. Events on tap are boys and girls 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions.

Meanwhile, registration is also ongoing for the men's and women's Open slated Nov. 12-24 at the indoor courts.

Deadline of entry is on Nov. 9 while the draw for the qualifying and main draw will be held on Nov. 10. Qualifying rounds will run from Nov. 12-15. Entry fees are P300 for singles and P500 for doubles.

Total cash at stake is P400,000 with the men's singles champion earning P80,000 and the women's singles winner pocketing P30,000. Doubles winners get P18,000 (men's) and P8,000 (women's).



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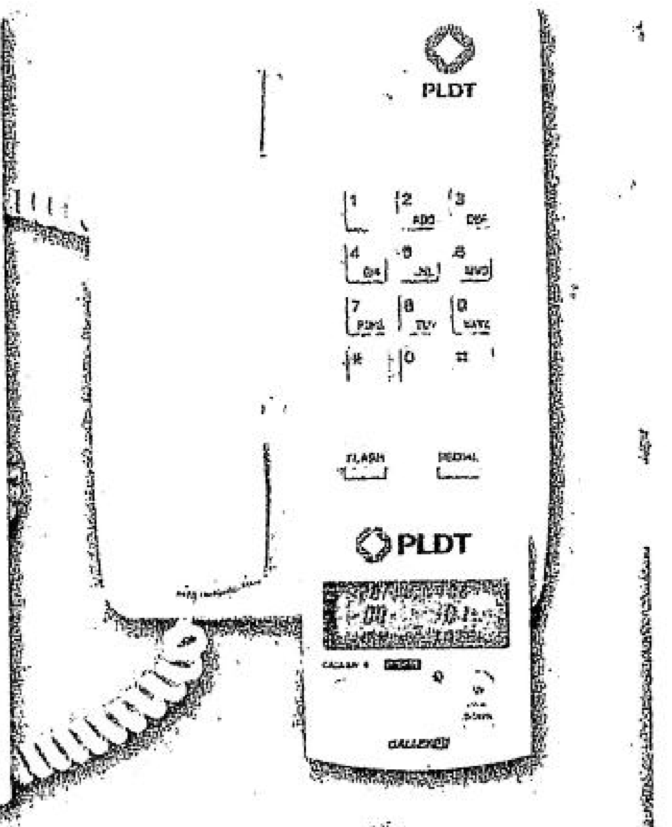

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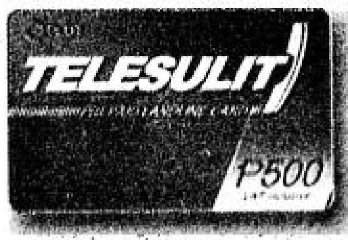

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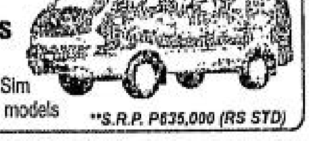

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Mayors, solons oppose plan to arm watchmen

By Carlito Pablo, Jerome Aning, Leila B. Salaverria and Tina Santos

THE MANILA mayor thinks it's "dangerous." Makati won't implement it. Congressmen are also concerned, with some of them thinking it's "a waste of people's money." And militants think it's proof Malacañang has declared a state emergency.

But the National Security Council yesterday endorsed the proposal to arm barangay tanod or watchmen and to classify them as militiamen under the Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units.

The proposal to arm barangay *tanod* and use them in the fight against urban terrorism was opposed yesterday by at least two mayors and some congressmen, just a day after Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said he would want the watchmen armed by December.

Fernando said the watchmen would undergo a stringent selection process before they could be allowed to own guns. They would then join a training that would be facilitated by the Philippine National Police.

"This is actually more of a deterrent, a symbol," Fernando said. "It deters law-

MAYORS/ A26

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Gunman in OMA slay paid with a gun

By Alcuin Papa

IN EXCHANGE for a .45-caliber pistol, Adiong Udas took the life of Nasser Baharran, finance officer of the Office of Muslim Affairs, in Quezon City on Tuesday, according to police.

Central Police District investigators yesterday said Udas, the suspected gunman in the ambush of Baharran (not Baran as earlier reported) had admitted under interrogation that he would be given a .45-caliber pistol for killing Baharran.

Udas, 29, of Baligayong, Davao City, was arrested shortly after he killed Baharran in an ambush.

The OMA official was shot dead in his red Nissan Sentra while he waited for the green light on the corner of Kitanlad Street and Araneta Avenue in Quezon City on Tuesday.

Police said two other men accompanied Udas when he approached Baharran's vehicle for the kill.

According to a report, members of the Galas police station were on patrol at the time and chanced upon the ambush.

The policemen caught Udas after a brief chase. The two others, who served as lookouts, managed to escape.

GUNMAN/ A26

Forbes Park 'super yayas' vs terrorists

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER the barangay *tanod*, guess who's being tapped next in the fight against terrorism?

In Forbes Park, it's the *yaya*, driver, gardener and security guard.

Barangay Forbes Park Chair Jose Concepcion Jr. yesterday said residents of the rich man's village in Makati City, especially the house hold staff, would be trained to recognize the modus operandi of terrorists and actions that should be considered suspicious and what to do in case of bomb threat.

"The entire family must know how to spot suspicious persons," Concepcion said. "The household staff plays a big part in preventing attacks or crimes."

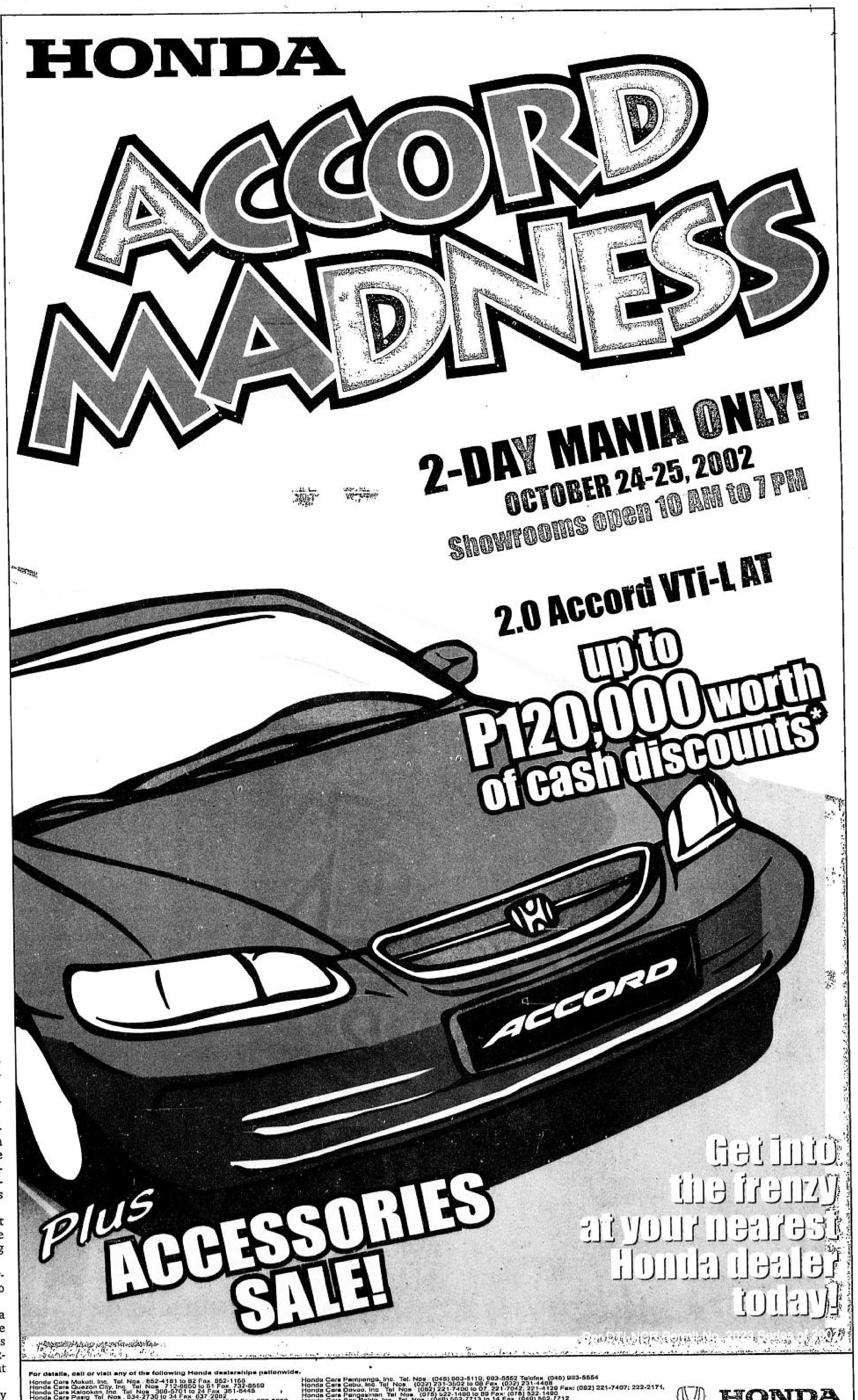
He said the barangay would conduct an information campaign to advise residents on what to do to ensure peace and safety in Forbes Park.

"We will teach them that when they see a suspicious package, they should call first the barangay because we can deploy persons trained in handling the package," he explained. "They should not call the police at once because there are many pranksters."

He said Forbes Park would be especially vigilant of vehicles that enter the village.

"Right now, we are checking the vehicles

FORBES/ A26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HONDA

DENR asks Marquez to explain

By Gerald Lacuarta

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez on Tuesday asked Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez to explain why he should not be penalized for allowing the operation of an open garbage dump in the city.

Alvarez ordered the closure of the open dumpsite in Parañaque as well as in another city and three towns for violating Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which bans open dumps for solid waste.

Alvarez issued notices of violation to Marquez and Tagaytay City Mayor Francis Tolentino after teams from the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) confirmed the operation of dumpsites in their areas.

Alvarez chairs the NSWMC.

He also ordered Mayors Felicisimo Viernesa of San Pedro, Laguna, Ernesto M. Punzalan of Mexico, Pampanga, and Ruben M. Madlansacay of Silang, Cavite, to stop operating open dumpsites in their jurisdiction.

Alvarez asked the five mayors to explain in writing within seven days why they "should not be penalized for having committed an act which violates the law."

"We need the support of local government officials to effectively implement the solid waste management law," Alvarez said.

He said the local executives may have violated provisions of RA 9003, which says "no open dumpsites shall be established and operated, nor any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including LGUs, which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid waste."

It also requires LGUs to convert open dumps into controlled dumps.

The NSWMC conducted an investigation in Parañaque in response to complaints over the daily open burning of garbage, particularly waste materials from fast food chains, at a vacant lot on East Service Road, Km. 18, South Expressway.

In Tagaytay City, a popular tourist destination, residents protested the operation of a dumpsite in Barangay San Jose, fearing the possible contamination of groundwater flowing through Taal Lake. They said they feared the washout would pose health threats to residents and tourists.

Also ordered closed were open dumpsites in San Pedro, Laguna, Silang, Cavite, and Mexico, Pampanga.

DENR field personnel learned that garbage from Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and Parañaque in Metro Manila, and Sta. Rosa, Biñan, and Calamba in Laguna, were being dumped in the open site in San Pedro.

That controversial Kidapawan photo

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IN MONDAY'S INQUIRER, Raul J. Palabrica, in his column Readers' Advocate (page 9), wrote about the controversy surrounding the publication by this paper of that photo of mother-and-child bombing victims in Kidapawan, North Cotabato.

The picture depicted a woman and her 10-year-old son lying on the pavement, the child already dead, after a bomb ripped through a bus terminal. The woman's clothes were torn exposing her stomach and underwear. The boy was naked from the waist down.

Many readers expressed disgust over that photo, one saying that it was "one centavo short of promoting" terrorism.

* * *

Palabrica said the PDI editors were divided over that photo during an editorial assessment meeting in the newsroom.

"The discussion was spirited. The divergence in views was unmistakable," said Palabrica, a lawyer.

One group of editors, he said, felt that the publication of that photo was unjustified and in bad taste and "only contributed to the aggravation of the already pitiful condition of the photo subjects."

* * *

The other group of editors, including Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc, felt the picture spoke a thousand words about the gravity of the situation not only in Kidapawan but in other areas as well. It was meant to prod the government to take steps to avoid a repetition of the incident.

A third group of editors, Palabrica said, agreed with the first group that felt the publication of the photo left a bad taste in the mouth. In the past, the third group found nothing wrong with publishing similar photos but had a change of heart this time, columnist Palabrica said.

The divergent views of the editors on the publication of sensitive story or photograph is in character with the people in the INQUIRER newsroom. It is democracy in action. In this paper, editors, the top decision-makers where news is concerned, argue among themselves on the propriety or justification of publishing a controversial story or photo. Majority decision wins.

* * *

Palabrica said he was against the publication of that photo as it could have added to the emotional trauma suffered by the husband, relatives and friends of the victims when they saw the pitiful sight.

"The horrors of terrorism can be conveyed to the readers without adding to the miseries of the victims," Palabrica said. "Their right to privacy remains even if they find themselves in the limelight for reasons not of their own doing."

* * *

If I may put in my two-cents' worth, the publication of that photo brought home to the readers terrorism in its ugliest form: a woman and her child lying on the pavement after the explosion. It showed that terrorists don't choose their targets, that even innocent women and children are not spared, that the next victim could be you and me.

I am not insensitive to other people's sufferings. In fact, my heart bled for the mother-and-child victims and their relatives and friends. But the publication of that photo was necessary to show the real face of terror, to galvanize the government into action, to encourage persons who may have known the terrorists behind the bombing to tell on them.

* * *

At the height of the Vietnam War in the 1960s, a photo of a South Vietnamese police officer shooting a suspected Viet Cong in the head was taken by a news wire agency photographer. That photo was published in many newspapers around the world.

The photo raised howls of protest the world over for its gory sight. That same photo won a prize because it got home the message: the senselessness of the Vietnam war.

That photo of the victims of the Kidapawan blast might yet achieve the same result: the defeat of terrorists in our midst.

Prankster terrorizes Parañaque workers

ANOTHER prankster has terrorized Metro Manila.

Tension gripped the Parañaque City Hall yesterday morning when an unidentified caller warned of bombs supposedly planted in three of the establishment's regional trial courts.

"We planted the bombs in three courts," the prankster told Arlene Valera, interpreter of RTC Branch 78, at 8:30 a.m.

The city hall was immediately evacuated as bomb experts searched the building for explosive devices, said PO1 Teodorico Flores of Police Community Precinct 4.

About 30 members of the Light Reaction Unit of the National Capital Region Police Office, the Parañaque Special Weapons and Tactics unit and and the Explosive and Ordnance Division were also deployed to secure the area.

Bomb experts with two K-9 dogs found no explosives and asked employees to return to work about three hours later.

Christian Esguerra

5 hurt in MRT bomb scare stampede

By Alcuin Papa

FIVE women and a man were injured in a stampede following a bomb scare at the Metro Rail Transit station at Edsa- Quezon Avenue yesterday morning.

Commuters panicked when they heard that there was a bomb planted in the premises, said the Central Police District. The six were injured when people rushed to the escalators leading out of the station.

The injured were taken to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment of cuts and bruises.

But members of the CPD's Explosive Ordnance Division found no bomb, investigators said.

In Bagbagin, Novaliches, policemen found what turned out to be components of a bomb in the vicinity of the Insular Savings Bank at 2:30 a.m. yesterday. Policemen found that the package contained ammonium nitrate and a clock, which they said were components of a homemade bomb.

METROBRIEFS

Prayers, not cash

THREE teenage boys were arrested after they made off with the prayer box of the Sanctuario de San Pedro Bautista Parish Church in Quezon City on Sunday. But the box contained not cash but slips of paper with prayer requests, police said. Security guard Reynato Cemanes, 37, told police he saw the three boys run off with the box. The boys are in police custody.

Alcuin Papa

Robbed, killed

BUSINESSMAN Arwin Dy was killed on Monday and taxi driver Jomar Jimenez was killed on Tuesday by suspected holdup men in Quezon City, police said. Dy, manager of the True World Travel and Tours Corp. on West Avenue, died from a gunshot wound in the left side of the body. His body was found at 5:30 p.m. at the corner of Mindanao Extension and Regalado Avenue in Barangay Lagro. Police said his wallet and cell phone were missing. Driver Jimenez, 28, of Valenzuela, was stabbed dead by holdup men at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday at the corner of West and Quezon avenues. Antonio Malaguena, a co-driver of the victim, said that during the attack, Jimenez was able to radio his home base for help. Jimenez's colleagues saw four men drive away in the victim's cab, which was later found abandoned in West Triangle, police said.

Alcuin Papa

Son slays pa

APOLINARIO PISCOS, 62, was hacked to-death on Tuesday by his son Danilo, 26, after a bitter argument in front of their house in Barangay Sta. Lucia, Pasig City. Police said Piscos died in the hospital from severe blood loss and shock. PO2 Ramon de Leon, a neighbor, arrested Danilo, who was about to escape. Police said the suspect used a samurai sword in the killing after his father berated him for being lazy.

Nelson F. Flores

Pa slays son

ROBERT Dy, 47, bludgeoned his son Darwin, 25, with a length of wood in their house in Bagong Silang, Caloocan on Tuesday afternoon, furious that the young man was jobless and was using illegal drugs, police said. The son died was the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila.

Tina Santos

Mayors, solons oppose...

From page A25

breakers or at least scares them away."

He added: "Giving a person a gun would make him more at ease. He acts better than a person who has nothing and yet has to prove he has power."

In a briefing that followed the NSC meeting chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the watchmen would undergo the required 45-day training period and would be armed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

``They should fall under the Cafgu system of the AFP," Golez said.

Asked whether the Cafgu system would be applicable to the National Capital Region, Golez said: ``We'll see about Metro Manila."

The Cafgu is the successor of the now defunct Civilian Home Defense Force under the Marcos administration.

Golez stressed that the arming of watchmen would ``follow strictly" the regulations imposed by the Philippine National Police in the licensing and carrying of firearms.

But Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday thumbed down the proposal, saying this would create a bigger problem than the one it intends to solve.

Atienza, president of the Metro Manila Mayors League, said the plan would be "dangerous" if implemented in the capital.

Atienza said what is needed is "an effective grassroots information gathering network" that would help authorities monitor the movements of persons or groups planning to create disturbances.

Makati City is more categorical. "We won't (implement the plan), we really don't think it's necessary," said Mayor Jejomar Binay's spokesperson Lito Anzures. "It would create more problems than solutions."

Anzures said people who must carry guns should be well trained physically as well as psychologically.

"Even police officers, who are licensed to carry guns, have been accused of being trigger-happy or mishandling their guns," he explained.

Caloocan Rep. Enrico Echiverri, the House assistant majority leader, said arming barangay watchmen "is only a waste of people's money. Why not shell out additional money for the PNP intelligence funds instead of buying guns for the watchmen?"

He said the House's "National Capital Region bloc," composed of 24 lawmakers, also expressed concern over the issue.

Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice said the government does not have enough funds to support the plan.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval said: "They should not be allowed to carry firearms because they might abuse their authority."

Valenzuela City Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo said arming the watchmen is "giving them a responsibility which they do not fully understand."

He proposed instead that the government offer rewards for information leading to the capture or identification of terrorists.

"Whether Malacañang Palace denies it or not, the truth is President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared a de facto state of emergency in the country in the guise of a state of calamity," said Fernando Hicap, chair of the Manila-based fisherfolk group Pamalakaya. *With a report from Gerald Lacuarta and AP*

Forbes Park 'super yayas'...

From page A25

entering and leaving the village," Concepcion said. "Our security guards will also be trained on how to spot explosives by those who have special skills."

Nine critical areas in the subdivision have also been identified, and additional security measures would be put in place there, he added.

A few days after a grenade exploded on McKinley Road, which runs through Forbes Park, Concepcion met with officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Manila Polo Club, the Manila Golf Club, the Makati police and residents to formulate ways to combat crime and terrorism.

Forbes Park is home to 32 embassies as well as the residences of big businessmen, foreign diplomats and prominent politicians and personalities.

Gunman in OMA slay...

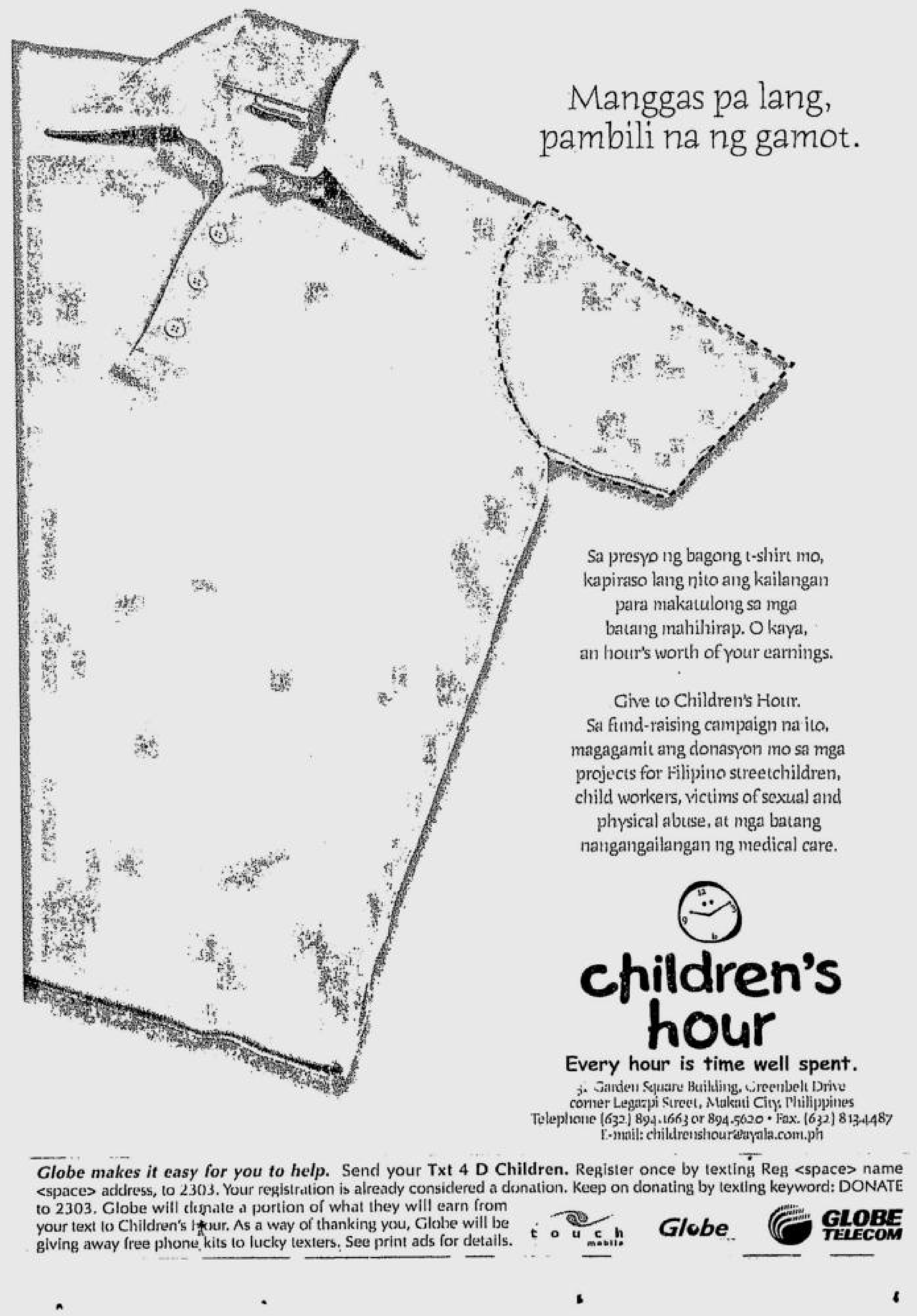
From page A25

Udas has refused to answer any more questions after he admitted to police that he was hired for the kill and was promised a gun.

He has not revealed who the mastermind of the killing was, police said.

Supt. Raul Medina, chief of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit, said they are looking into the possibility that Udas was also hired to kill another OMA official, Kharis Mikunung, last Sept. 19.

Mikunung, deputy executive director of the OMA, was on his way home from the OMA office on E. Rodriguez when a lone gunman approached him from behind and shot him at close range.



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9 9 MORNINGS
10 MR. DEEDS

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5 RED DRAGON
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10 MR. DEEDS
11 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
12 BEDTIME STORIES

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6 RED DRAGON
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11 BEDTIME STORIES
12 9 MORNINGS

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9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
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11 BEDTIME STORIES
12 9 MORNINGS

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1 9 MORNINGS
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 BEDTIME STORIES
4 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
5 THE TUXEDO
6 RED DRAGON
7 PLUTO NASH
8 BALLISTIC

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2 MR. DEEDS
3 PLUTO NASH
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6 THE TOUCH
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 BALLISTIC
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
10 BEDTIME STORIES

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2 THE TOUCH
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4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
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8 RED DRAGON

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1 PROSTI
2 CLOSED
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8 VAN WILDER

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3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS

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1 RED DRAGON
2 VAN WILDER
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Women directors continue to make waves

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN the past five years, one of the most significant developments on the local film scene has been the rise of women directors to unparalleled prominence and popularity. Time was when only two women filmmakers were active locally, and they generally didn't get to do the most "important" films. But, from the late '90s to the present, at least five women directors have been making big waves. In fact, they have direcred some of the biggest hits and most critically-acclaimed Filipino films—**Marilou Diaz-Abaya** with "Jose Rizal," "Muro Ami" and "Bagong Buwan," **Laurice Guillen** with "Tanging Yaman" and "American Adobo," **Joyce Bernal** with a string of upbeat, with-it hits, **Olivia Lamasan** with "Madrasta," and **Rory Quintos** with "Anak."

This development is most welcome, because for too long a time now, the local film directing scene has been dominated by male filmmakers—an unfair preponderance, because half of the film audience is made up of women. Surely, they need filmmakers who can most insightfully and empathetically dramatize their concerns and aspirations on the big screen.

Interestingly, our women directors don't like being pigeonholed as such, because they feel that while they are women, their films speak to all viewers, regardless of gender. Still, the glaring lack of women directors requires us to underscore the fact that, historically, in many respects, it has been a gender issue. As some women directors will themselves admit, they had a hard time working in films as equals to their male counterparts, and this bias against women directors has sadly but effectively limited the entry of other qualified female talents into the directing scene.

In any case, 2000 and 2001 were very good years for our women film directors, and it looks like 2002 and 2003 will be similarly upbeat. Marilou Diaz-Abaya is currently shooting "Moral 2000," her update on one of her early films, "Moral," shot 20 years ago. Marilou's new film features the same actresses who appeared in "Moral," plus younger actors who play their children.

For her part, Laurice Guillen is about to film "Santa-Santita," for Unitel, the same production company that co-produced "American Adobo" with ABS-CBN.

And Rory Quintos has wrapped up work on "Kailangan Kita," a film starring **Aga Muhlach** and **Claudine Baretto**. And new projects are also expected from Olive Lamasan and Joyce Bernal.

Things are looking up for our women directors, despite continuing opposition from some quarters. And we trust that new female directing talents will be given their breaks in

WOMEN/ A29

MTV brings 'Sama Ka' to Davao and Cebu

YOU MAY have seen it. On Edsa, overlooking the Pasig River, is a big billboard with MTV's four VJs—KC, Donita, Belinda and Sarah in the "Sama Ka Na" campaign.

MTV Philippines launched the "Sama Ka Na" campaign to further solidify its position. MTV is effectively saying, "Hey, we're a Filipino channel and we cater to the Filipinos' tastes."

If you watch MTV nowadays, (Channel 41 on free TV, Home Cable and Sky Cable), you will see a lot of Filipino acts showcasing their music in their latest videos, side by side with Britney Spears, Ja Rule and Linkin Park.

MTV will do a mini Philippine tour as it invades Cebu today and Davao on Oct. 26, to celebrate "Sama Ka Na" in the south. MTV, along with sponsors San Miguel Beer, Smart, Manila Bulletin and Waterfront Hotels, will bring two winners of the MTV Pilipinas Awards—Karylle and Rivermaya, who will perform at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino today before flying to Davao to perform at the Waterfront Insular Hotel Garden Tent.

Both events will culminate with a masquerade ball in anticipation of Halloween.

In "MTV Sama Ka Na Music Trivia Text Challenge" from Oct. 21 to Dec. 16, MTV challenges you to test your MTV knowledge. Do you know Avril Lavigne's gender? If you do, type "MTV" on your cell phone and send to 2954 (Globe) or 2494 (Smart), and you're in the game.

For more information, check out print ads and posters.

'Strictly Confidential' tonight

ONE NIGHT of decadence, wild fun and pure sensuality is "Strictly Confidential," a lingerie fashion show of the creations of Boying Estaquio.

The maiden offering of Melanie Productions will be held tonight at the Alegria Lounge of Holiday Inn Manila, with top male and female models, including actress Angela Velez and Calcarrie models Bianca Valerio, Bernie Guinto, Verns Vuckley, Lee Giles and others, directed by Cata Figueroa.

"Strictly Confidential" is presented by DKT International, makers of Trust Condoms, Club Panoly, Freysinet Wines and Smint in cooperation with RX 93.1 Monster Radio. Show starts at 8:30 p.m. after cocktails. Prizes such as Trust special gift packs and Club Panoly Boracay accommodations will be raffled off.

Tickets are available at all Pagcor outlets, or you may call Lany Alvarez, 788-779 or 0919-5074122.

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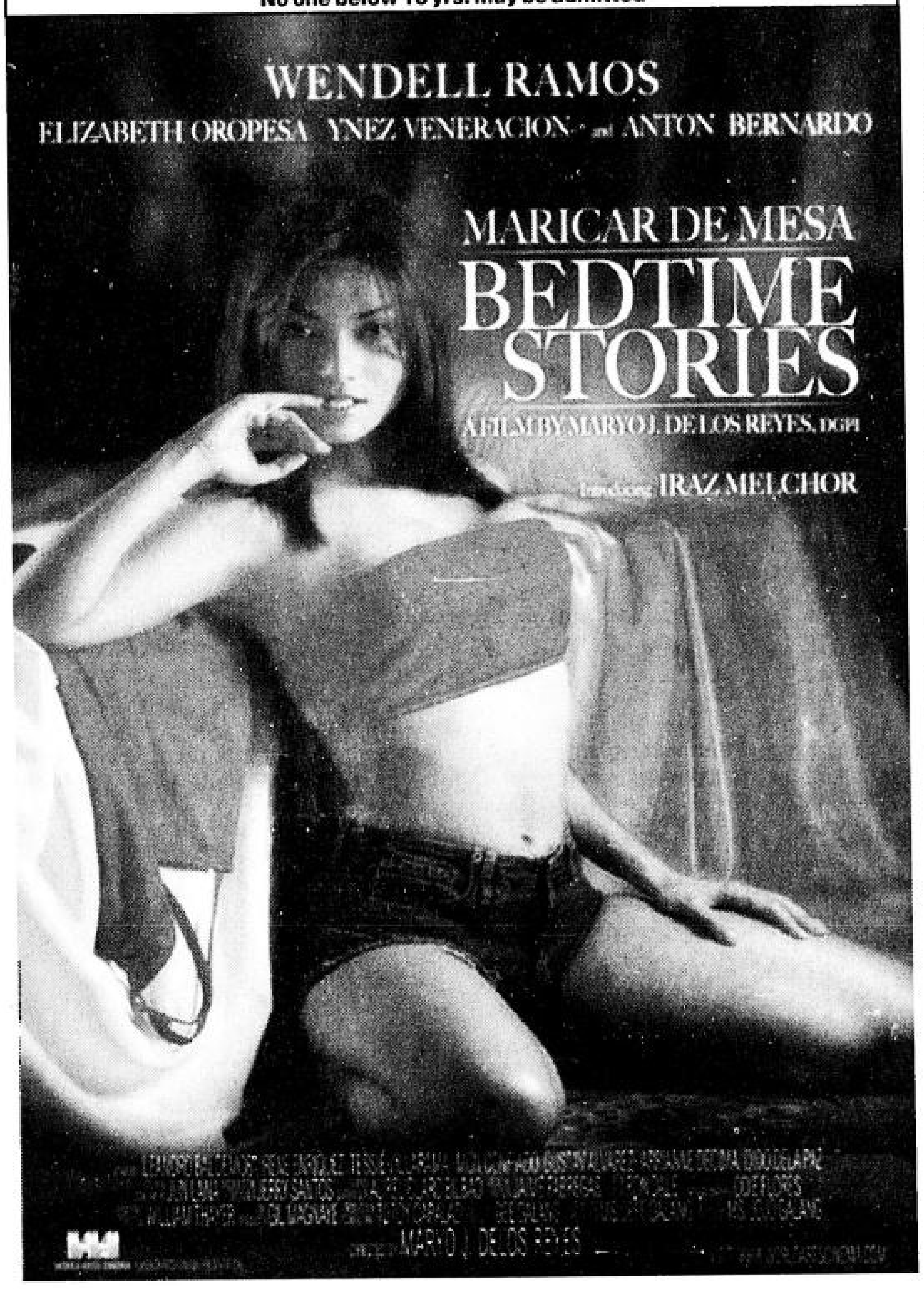

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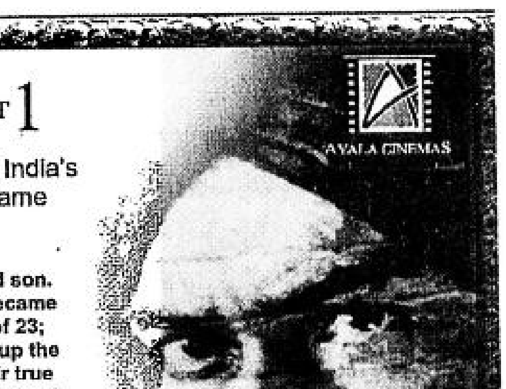

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Con Honbre Al Fondo
Bwana 7:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 9:30pm
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Solas 2:00pm
Tesis 4:30pm
El Abuello 7:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 9:30pm
October 23 (Wed)
Retrato de Mujer 11:30pm
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El Abuello 2:00pm
Bwana 4:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm
October 24 (Thu.)
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Goya En Burdeos 2:00pm
El Abuello 4:30pm
Bwana 7:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 9:30pm
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Bwana 4:30pm
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Solas 9:30pm
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October 31, 10 pm, Greenbelt Park
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Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
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'Batang Trapo': Petty crime as a way of life

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor

"Don't forget this. It is the law of the universe that the strong shall survive and the weak must fall by the way, and I don't give a damn what idealistic plan is cooked up, nothing can change that." —Walt Disney

"This is rat eat rat, dog eat dog, I'll kill them. I'll kill them before they kill me. You're talking about American way of survival of the fittest."—Ray Kroc, McDonald Corp.

MES de Guzman won the grand prize in the recent Festival du Film Marrakech 2002 held in Morocco last Sept. 18 to 22.

His work, "Batang Trapo," has already won for him Urian's best short film last year and this year's Marrakech hailed it as its Lá Etoile D'or winner.

REVIEW

It would seem that there is nothing extraordinary about this film. Its theme of poverty has been done by the late Lino Brocka. But a closer look reveals much more than the misery of poverty.

'Accident'

"Batang Trapo" is the story of two brothers, streetchildren both, who earn their living by selling rags and wiping the windshields of cars and jeepneys on a busy road in Manila. The older boy learns that by feigning accidents, they can earn more money because drivers would rather bribe them than bring them to the hospital.

Out of desperation, and young as they are, these children face up to corruption.

We see the film's strengths especially in two remarkable scenes: A scene at McDonald's and the traffic sign scenes.

In the McDonald's scene, the boys, after their day's work, feel a sense of freedom and power. They use their hard-earned money to buy and eat burgers, as though happiness is something one can buy. These kids, like the rest of Filipinos, buy fast food everyday without giving much thought to where the food comes from, how it is made, and what such practice does to their community.

Impotence

Such a scene reminds us of the impotence of society to critique itself amidst poverty and the affluence of the few.

The traffic scene shows the irony in the way the "batang trapo" and the motorists perceive what the traffic signals mean. Red light for the motorists means "stop" but for the peddlers, this is the time to start moving, selling goods and offering services to commuters and motorists.

The film tells us how our society has sunk deeper and deeper in the depths of the human condition so that petty crimes become a strategy in living.

We see the disillusionment of a society in which one does not only sell labor but also one's body. The logic of competition in such society is for one to become a commodity with a corresponding exchange value.

One sells oneself to the highest bidder in exchange for a better life and more commodities. Children learn this quickly. Hence, "Batang Trapo" is also a metaphor for the commodification that we all experience.

Trapo, which literally means rags, connotes how children who sell rags are treated as rags and we as members of a society that tolerates such conditions are much worse, totally dehumanized.

The film offers a bleak image, where the perverted values become the norm and the only accountability is to oneself.

However, the film also portrays the humanity of these two children, especially in the last scene where the older brother takes care of the suffering younger one. Such gesture is in complete contrast to the inhumanity of a society where money is substituted for naked, shameless, direct and brutal manipulation. The contrast is intended perhaps to remind us also that humanity is not at all lost.

Sex Bomb explodes again

DUE TO to insistent public demand, the sexy, talented all-female dance group Sex Bomb Girls returns to the Music Museum on Saturday, 9:00 p.m., in "Yo! My Sex Bomb...The Rèpeat."

The girl will heat up the Museum with their hot dance numbers and their hit songs "Bakit Papa?", "Pretty Little Baby," "Crush Kita" and "Tulog Na" from their best-selling debut album "Unang Putok" from BMG Records.

The Sex Bomb Girls started in the "Laban o Bawi" portion of "Eat Bulaga."

The group is composed of Rochelle Pangilinan, Diofanny "Jopay" Paguia, Siraliz "Aira" Bermudez, Yvette Pabalan, Monina Icban, Chariza Ann "Izzy" Trazona, Florentina "Weng" Ibarra, Mievelle "Cilia" Pangyarihan, Sandy Tolentino, Maria Jackquiline "Jacky" Rivas, Cherryl "Cheche" Tolentino, Mary Grace Nierra and Marynold "Mae" Acosta.

The Sex Bomb Girls are also mainstays of GMA7's "Daboy en Dagirl" and are now filming their first movie for Regal Films.

Their special guests in "Yo! My Sex Bomb...The Repeat" are comedians Allan K and Ruby Rodriguez.

The group is managed by Joy Cancio who is also the concert producer.

The concert is presented by Petron Rev-X, with Crimson, BOG Records Pilipinas and Ever Bilena.

Tickets are available at the Music Museum, Danz Focus and Klowns.

For inquiries, call 721-6726, 721-06365, 411-1488, 415-5445, 410 -3159, 0917-894-2397 or 0918-900-2248.

SEX Bomb Girls return to the Music Museum on Saturday night.

'Morning Girls' airing until December only?

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IS IT true that "Morning Girls" will be airing until December only and that **Kris Aquino** might be back to conquer the morning time slot she used to have? If this is true, it's really not much of a loss for **Pops Fernandez** and **Zsa Zsa Padilla** because they can focus more on the concert scene which is really their arena.

As for Kris, she has proven her skills in hosting. Maybe all she needs is a totally different concept so that the erratic program changes in the pre-noontime slot will come to a halt.

The audience may be fickle but why confuse them even more with unpredictable shifts in programming, especially in a time slot that's supposed to set the mood for the day?

Guess what and who

I HAD a ball at the 20th anniversary of Guess with my ever dependable amigo and future congressman **Jonn Santillan**, **Vivian Sarabia**, the fairy godmother of stylish celebrities when it comes to eyewear and eye care, her dashing business partner **Bon Reonal** and the amiable local distributor of Guess eyewear **Lal Chatlani**, at the NBC Tent Fort Bonifacio.

The huge gazebo where cocktails were served brimmed with hip and chic party people eager to see the new Guess line of apparel. Jonn and I enjoyed swapping stories with my colleagues in "Magandang Umaga Bayan," **Cheryl Cosim** and **Julius Babao** with his ladylove **Tintin Bersola**.

Julius told us he is selling some of his prized dogs. Tin-tin and he are such dog lovers.

We were teasing Cheryl why she was dateless. Doesn't **Willie Revillame** have any room in her life anymore? Without batting an eyelash she said, "I'm moving on. *Bagong buhay na ako!*"

Enough said.

The NBC Tent looked like a harem of fashion royals. Understated elegance was the night's look. The affair began with an eye-catching MTV of the Marciano Brothers narrating how Guess came to be. We were all enthralled with the video, which was interspersed with spoofs of "The Godfather" and "Austin Powers."

The models sizzled in their casually classy outfits showing how charmingly naughty or naughtily charming one can look in Guess.

Ruffa Guttierrez emceed the event. She could pass for a Guess mannequin herself. Her new manager **Angeli Valenciano** joined us later in the evening.

I cornered Angeli. "Isn't Ruffa getting married soon to her Turkish beau? Wouldn't that be detrimental to her career?"

Angeli revealed: "I think next year, although we all hope she waits a little longer, but we're here to support her and what makes her happy."

All the dudes in the party wanted to get close to Ruffa but she was whisked off by her feisty mom **Annabelle Rama** and dad **Eddie Gutierrez** as soon as the models exited the catwalk.

After the show, we partied all night to the pulsating music of The Rage band. Angeli was so impressed with the band. She wondered why a band as awesome as The Rage has not had an album all these years.

Spotted grooving to the music were **Pinky Amador**, **Jamie Rivera**, **Isay Alvarez**, **Jenine Desiderio**, **Pinky Marquez**, **Dingdong Avanzado** and **Jessa Zaragoza**, among others.

Isay whispered to me: "I'm keeping an eye on Jenine because The Rage's (**Juan Miguel Salvador**) is her ex. You know how it is letting go."

Music somehow numbs an achy breaky heart. So what if you don't exactly feel good? Just dress the part as the Guess models did and the rest will follow.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Women directors...

From page A28

the next few months.

Movies on TV

ON the Cinemax channel, Thursday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 a.m., "Being John Malkovich." 9:45 a.m., "Paint Your Wagon." 2 a.m., "The Caine Mutiny." 4 a.m., "The Screening Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made, Part 1."

Friday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 a.m., "Born Yesterday." 5:30 p.m., "James Bean." Saturday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m., "It Happened One Night." 7:15 p.m., "Mad About Mambo." 12:25 a.m., "Reservoir Dogs."

Sunday, Oct. 27 at 10:30 a.m., "Last Action Hero." 5:45 p.m., "The Secret of My Success." Tuesday, Oct 29 at 6 a.m., "Once Upon a Time in the West." Wednesday, Oct 30 at 1:45 a.m., "Reservoir Dogs." Thursday, Oct 31 at 2 p.m., "Double Jeopardy."

Aaron Carter

FOURTEEN-year-old hitmaker **Aaron Carter** is slated to perform at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 9 to boost his latest album, "Another Earthquake." Aaron first got noticed because he is the younger brother of Backstreet Boy **Nick Carter**, but he has since come into his own as a popular young singer.

2000 was his breakthrough year. He released his second hit album, "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)", along with its successful single video. Last year, he came out with his third album, "Oh Aaron," which entered the Billboard charts at No.7.

Aaron's Araneta Coliseum show also features Tribe of Levi and Kyla. Call 413-2572.

'Game for It'

GO on a thrilling adventure by watching "Game for It", part of the game "Adventure Starts Here with Toyota" series on the National Geographic Channel, at 7 p.m., on Sunday Oct. 27. Join an exciting skiing expedition down the remote Henry Mountains in Utah with filmmaker **Brian Cass** and his friend **Tyler**.

Also featured are cyclists **Justin** and **Ian**, who start pedaling their way from the mouth of the Mekong River, but bad weather, bureaucracy and bike failure get in their way.

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1	PLUTO NASH	11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/ 9:10/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END
2	RED DRAGON	12:10 FS/12:40 MF/3:15/5:50/8:25/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

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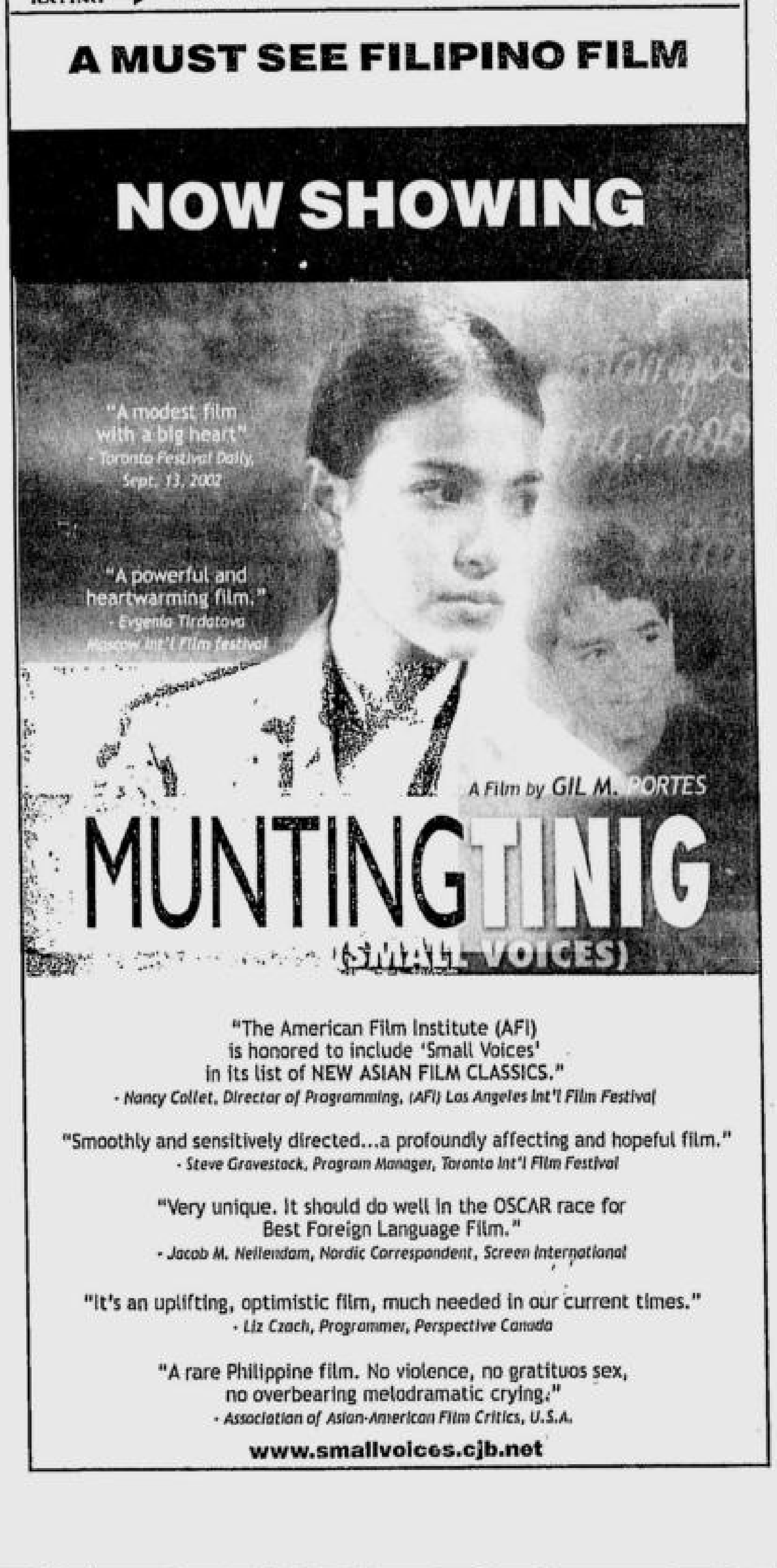
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- Toronto Festival Daily, Sept. 13, 2002
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- Evgenia Tirdatova, Moscow Int'l Film Festival
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- Association of Asian-American Film Critics, U.S.A.

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THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVER
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME ' JUST VISITING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
B	BEDTIME STORY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-2	POSSESSION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORY
CINEMA-3	BESTMAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-6	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
CINEMA-8	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-15	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
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CINEMA-4	SELDA

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HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION - P13 11:40,1:40,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	POSSESSION P13 12:20,2:30,4:40, 6:50,9:00	RED DRAGON R18 11:30,2:10,4:50, 7:30,10:10

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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FRIENDS AND RIVALS. Geneva Cruz (near right) and Rachel Alejandro, whose careers seem to run along parallel lines, are said to be friends in private, but they will become rivals tomorrow night.

Who's better, Rachel or Geneva?

TOMORROW night, the Music Museum turns into a battleground as Rachel Alejandro and Geneva Cruz perform together for the first time in a concert aptly titled "Showdown."

According to the concert director, Floy Quintos, "Showdown" aims to combine and present the similarities as well as the basic differences of Rachel and Geneva as individual performers.

Both Rachel and Geneva started in show business at a very young age and both have been active in live performances, recording, television and movies.

Rachel and Geneva have had their turns as subjects of gossips and intrigues.

"Showdown" will trace the careers and lives of Rachel and Geneva through music.

They are expected to sing their biggest hits such as Rachel's "Nakapagtataka" and "Paalam Na," Geneva's "Kailan" and "I Like You," among many others.

They will also be rendering Top 40 hits and standards as well as dance sequences. As talent manager Girlie Rodis says, the concert will be a musical journey deep into the hearts and minds of Rachel and Geneva.

"We've been dreaming about this," says Rachel. Says Geneva: "We're working extra hard to have an unforgettable show."

"Showdown" is a production of Talentworks Asia.

Tickets are available at National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Stores in Malate and Alabang, Tower Records Malate and Alabang, Music Museum, 721-0635 and 721-6726, and Tickeworld, 891-5610.

Tickets can also be ordered on line through www.ticketworld.com.ph.

For more information, call Talentworks Asia at 687-0656 or 687-0658.

The web-slinging Parker is back!

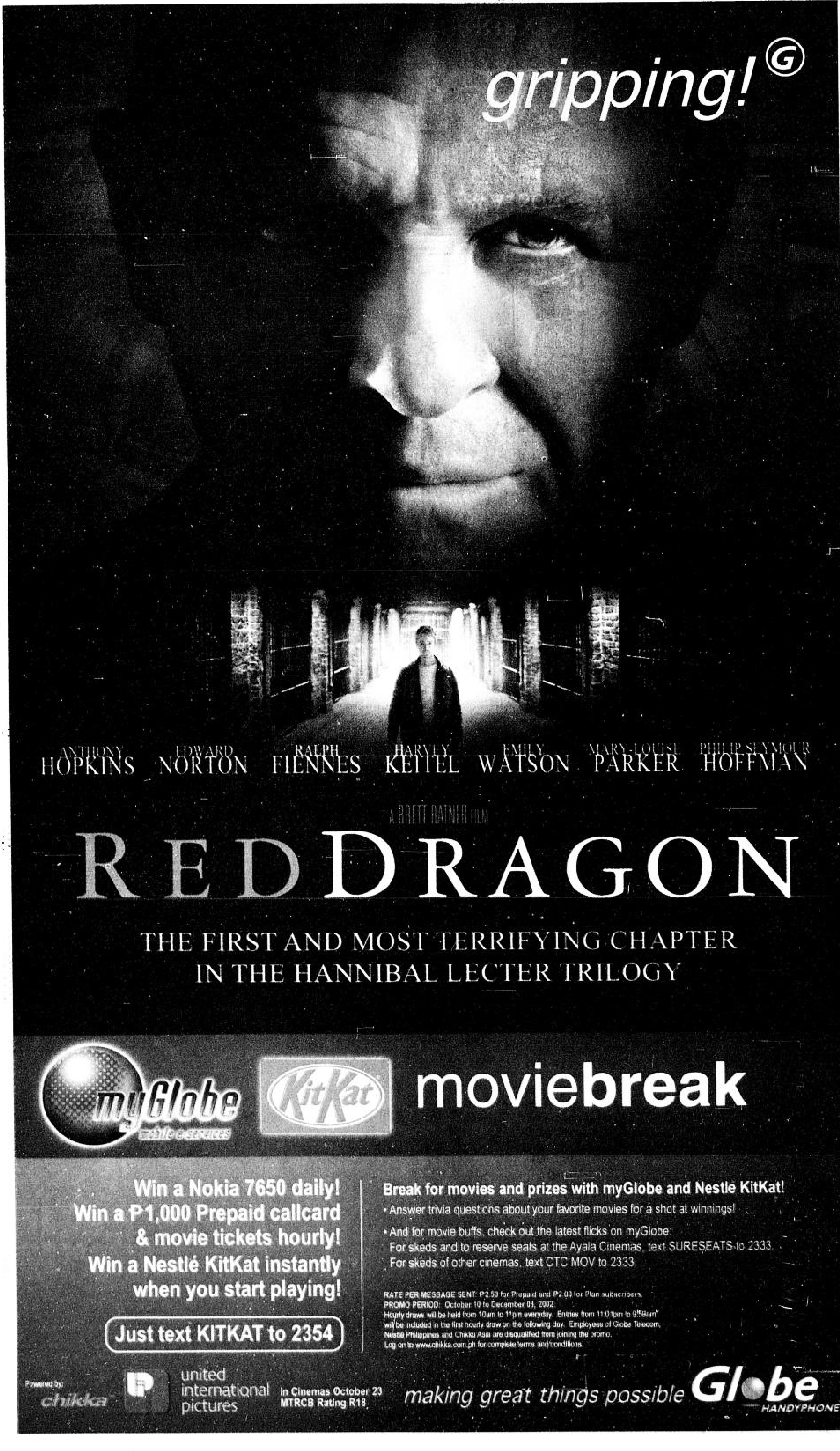
"SPIDER-MAN," which zoomed to the top in its theatrical release this year, is now on VHS, VCD and special edition DVD.

The Columbia Pictures film is directed by Sam Raimi and stars Tobey Maguire as the web-slinger, Academy Award nominee Willem Dafoe, and Kirsten Dunst.

Peter Parker, after being bitten by genetically-altered spider, gains superhuman strength and the spider-like ability to cling to any surface. He vows to use his abilities to fight crime.

The orphaned Peter lives in Queens, New York with his beloved Aunt May and Uncle Ben. He leads the life of a normal student, working as photographer for the school paper, pining after the beautiful Mary Jane Watson and hanging out with buddy Harry Osborn (James Franco). Harry's father is the megalomaniac businessman Norman Osborn (Dafoe), who is undergoing some changes of his own.

"Spider-Man," distributed by Magnavision, sells for only P250 in VHS and VCD form.



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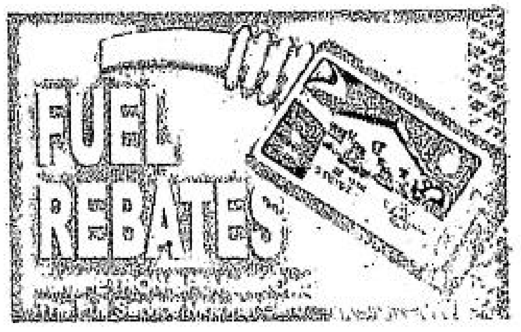

Budget deficit hits ₱166B in September

INDICATORS

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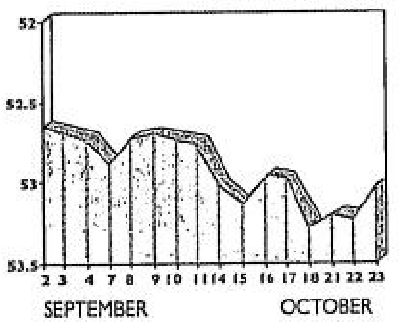

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 23, 2002

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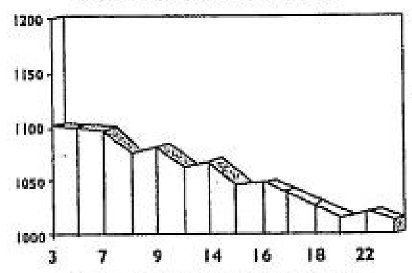
STOCK MARKET

Shares end down 0.6%

SHARE prices fell 0.6 percent to a new 11-month low yesterday after the government's fiscal position deteriorated further, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 6.44 points to close at 1,012.86.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B3)

"The negative performance of Wall Street overnight and reports that the budget deficit swelled to P166.47 billion dampened market sentiment," said Roberto Cano of BPI Securities.

"The (budget deficit) is even more disappointing considering that it was initially expected at less than P160 billion," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development.

The deficit data was released just as the market was trying to recover from the spate of bombings which have rattled the country since last week. The bombings have led to a series of bomb scares, which put the government and the public on heightened alert.

Volume shrank to 60.2 million shares worth P224.39 million from 104.37 million shares worth P244.78 million on Tuesday. *AFP*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUDGET deficit for the first nine months of the year hit P166.47 billion, exceeding official projections by 57 percent, the Department of Finance said yesterday.

The government had projected a P106.33-billion deficit for the January-to-September period. The deficit in the same period last year was at P122.15 billion, the department said.

The nine-month figure also exceeded the P130-billion budget deficit target for the whole of 2002.

The government subsequently revised the target to at most 4 percent of 2002 GDP, or about P155 billion, but this too now has been overtaken.

Given the higher-than-expected figure as of September, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho now expects the fiscal gap to hit 4.5 percent of GDP or about P180 billion. "The 4-percent deficit-to-GDP target is becoming very difficult to achieve."

Private economists and analysts, however, see the fiscal gap swelling to P200-P220 billion by December.

Revenues in the first nine months of the year amounted to P410.89 billion, some 48 percent below the official projections, while expenditures rose to P577.36 billion, some 2 percent below the target, the finance department said in a statement.

The BIR, which collects 80 percent of the government's earnings yearly, raised P32.4 billion in September against a target of P32.7 billion.

The September collection of the Bureau of Customs was 31.2 percent more than the previous year's P24.662 billion but was lower from P34.176 billion the previous month. However, it delivered only P8.11 billion in September compared with P9.21 billion in August.

Despite the growing deficit, Camacho said reforms put in place by newly appointed Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno were "producing tangible results" in boosting revenues.

Camacho also urged the private sector to look beyond the numbers and focus on improving collection trends, particularly with the BIR.

But even as Camacho tried to calm down financial markets, the peso opened much weaker at 53.30, then slid to 53.35 after the deficit announcement, from Tuesday's closing of 53.24.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza insisted that the growing fiscal slippage should not push treasury bill rates significantly higher as the finance department had raised funds enough to pay for a deficit of up to P190 billion.

Still, Edeza admitted that the government's cost of borrowing as reflected by the 91-day treasury bill rate might go up by more than a percentage point on Monday from 5.288 percent the previous auction.

Edeza acknowledged that part of the pressure on the deficit was the higher interest payments made in September.

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, urged the government to restore fiscal discipline as the growing budget deficit would create bigger problems, raise local interest and inflation rates that, in turn, would tick off other pressure points like the peso and wages.

"The numbers are no longer tolerable and based on the trends, the government is on its way to hitting a budget deficit of P200 billion or even P220 billion," Luz said.

BIR to look into tax payments of IPPs, banks

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is training its sights on independent power producers and banks that failed to remit the correct taxes to the government.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno yesterday said the agency was looking into the books of 19 IPPs that sold electricity to the National Power Corp. from 1994 to 1996 and even before their scheduled commercial operations.

Parayno said these IPPs may have failed to pay income taxes to the government as the BIR saw in the case of one power-generating company.

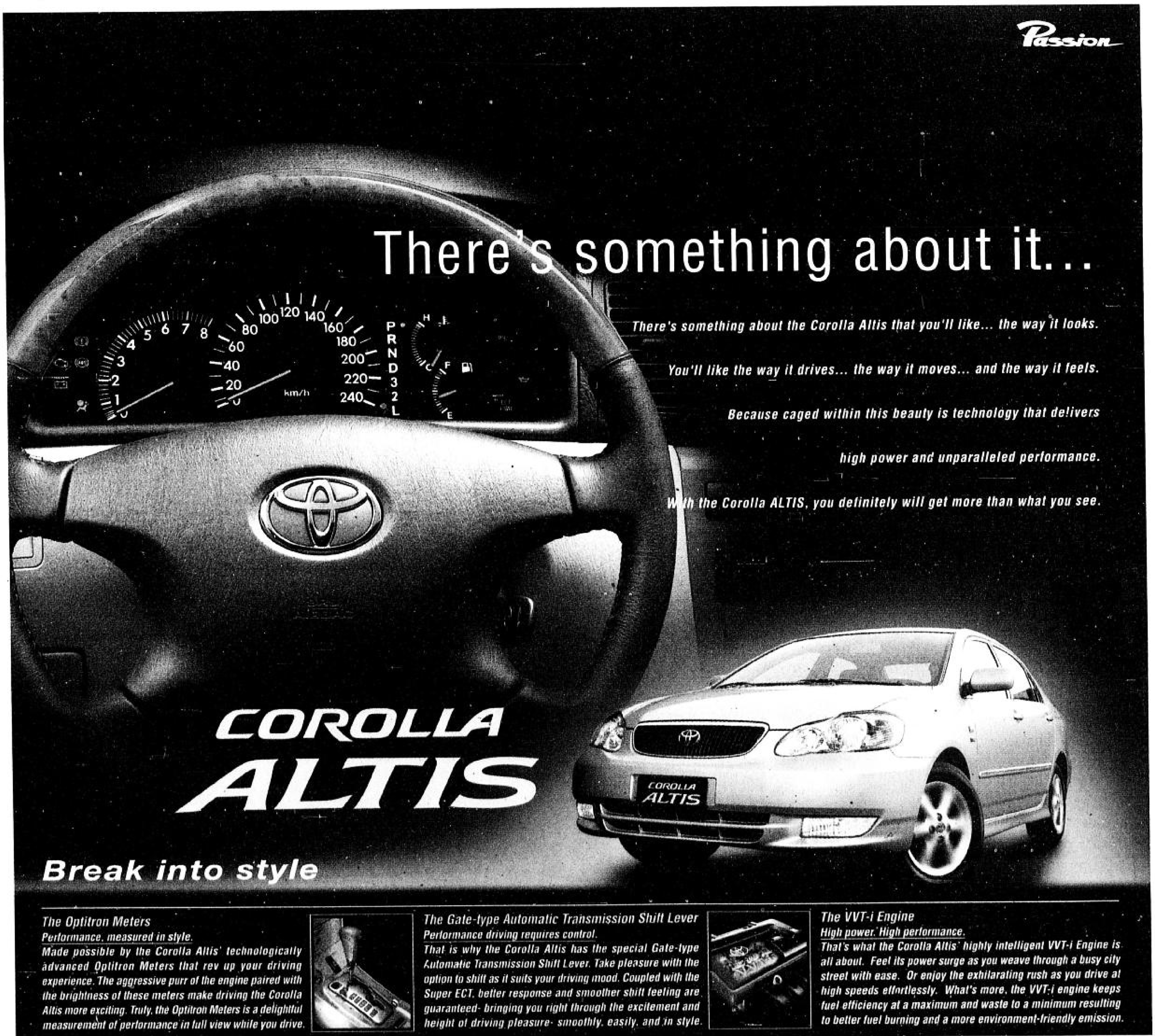
Also being monitored are banks that have been selling their foreclosed assets but failed to pay the capital gains and documentary stamp taxes.

Parayno said one IPP and a Makati-based bank were included in the list of 728 companies that the BIR found to have understated sales and services by a total of P25 billion.

The BIR chief declined to name the erring IPP and bank. He hinted that the particular IPP tasked by Napocor to rehabilitate an old power plant had been involved in other controversies.

Parayno pointed out that before their scheduled commercial operations, the bureau saw that 19 power-generating firms may have sold electricity to the Napocor.

The sales from 1994 to 1996 should have been subjected to income taxes as these were not yet covered by the income-tax holidays that the Board of Investment started to give in 1997.



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TOYOTA

Gov't to issue yen bonds in March

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said it was planning to float bonds in the Japanese market before March 2003 even without a guarantee to raise about $300 million. The amount forms part of the $2.3 billion worth of foreign borrowings programmed for next year.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza told reporters that the government was planning to proceed with the yen bond issue even without a guarantee from Japan's Nippon Export and Investment Insurance, the state-owned group that guaranteed the Philippine government bond issue in December 2001.

"A guarantee may only slow down the borrowing process," said the treasurer.

He said the government would not need to tap other markets in the meantime as the government had no pressing need for cash despite the burgeoning fiscal gap.

The plan to re-open the five-year euro bond deal tapped in September for a $300-million issue and the 10-year global bond market had been put on hold due to uncertain market conditions.

These options, he said, would be explored early next year when the government started raising the rest of the $2.3 billion to finance a programmed deficit of P142.1 billion.

Edeza insisted that the foreign markets were not expected to penalize the government for incurring a huge budget deficit of P166.473 billion in the first nine months.

Amnesty intentional

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THOUSANDS of small companies owe the Social Security System mountains of money. They cannot pay their share in their employees' contribution to the pension fund.

Yet the SSS is working extra hard to increase the contribution rate of its members. Just where the logic is in all this, I have yet to discover.

Here we are, a lot of business establishments so hard up that they cannot meet their obligation with the SSS, yet the SSS thinks that's not enough punishment.

It's hard to say if the SSS only wants to make life even more miserable for those little companies. Or maybe the SSS simply wants to see a lot of them go bankrupt.

Many in the business sector are alarmed. If those small businesses close down, we can only expect more jobless. And then the rich always grumbles about the crime rate!

* * *

LET'S say you are stupid enough to get your business caught up in hard times like these. The crisis which started in 1997 is only on its fifth year—and still going strong.

Most probably, your cash flow looks like our performance in the Asian Games, meaning, it's quite ugly. You can only afford to pay for urgent things like utility bills.

That's when the SSS exercises its right to punish you. Its rules state that, for delayed payment, it must slap you with a 3-percent penalty per month.

By year-end, therefore, the penalty is much more than the principal. Just imagine what it's like after five years. Don't tell me! It's more swollen than some senators.

You can't blame those thousands of small businesses if they would rather just close down by themselves. The SSS will surely make them bankrupt, anyway.

* * *

THAT idea of such a harsh penalty came into force, because somebody in the SSS wanted to compel the employers to remit their share to the fund religiously.

Obviously it is not working. It is like the Clean Air Act. It only looks nice on paper. The only problem is, how in FPJ's name do we implement it!

That law requires a high standard—even higher than Europe's—for our fuel, supposedly, to control pollution. Nobody follows it. Our air is clean on paper.

Several resolutions (i.e. speeches) have already been raised in Congress. They all seek an intentional waiver of the SSS penalty—an amnesty program, in short.

The SSS already did an intentional amnesty, well, at least two times in the past, such as during the foreign debt crisis in the 1980s.

But as you know, in Congress, a lot of things also look good on paper. They are the stuff that speeches are made of. Unfortunately, we cannot eat speeches.

* * *

FRANKLY, my neighbor was rooting for former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who at one time, when we were under martial rule, was the second most powerful man in the land.

Known as JPE to media people, he got first-class coverage recently, as the handsome devil claiming that Meralco duped us, its customers, by close to P15 billion.

No wonder, media bit JPE's gambit. JPE had information that Meralco paid close to P15 billion to an IPP known as First Gas for nothing—not even a piece of old hopia.

If this is a family, First Gas and Meralco are cousins. They are both part of the Lopez group. My neighbor thought we should get back everything.

Of course it's a big deal. First of all, that's a lot of money. Second of all, that's our money. If JPE has the goods, he must force Meralco to give it back to us. And more!

* * *

THE ONLY thing is, JPE made his case in the Senate, during the hearing on the Meralco franchise, and so it makes you think if, indeed, he knew what he was doing.

You cannot get back a single centavo of that money if you rely on the Senate. Of all people, JPE should know it. He was once an important part of the whole charade.

To get even just half a taho money from that P15 billion, JPE knew fully well he should go to court. Instead JPE went to the Senate. In return, he just reaped publicity.

Maybe he thought he was still a senator. He even said so himself. He surely acted like one during the hearing. As a rule, senators must act like they know everything.

Piqued that Meralco people demolished his, er, so-called "exposé," JPE pointed a finger at them, demanding they explain another point he raised earlier.

It's just that everybody thought we were done with martial rule 16 years ago.

* * *

YOU can imagine my neighbor's disappointment when, after Meralco answered JPE's accusation point by point, nothing was ever heard from him again—not even a burp.

It turned out that the electricity which Meralco got from First Gas was not billed as, well, electricity from First Gas. It had to pass through our beloved Napocor.

As always, Napocor must do its part as a monopoly. Every current of electricity must appear as delivery by Napocor. A case of giving credit where credit is not due?

If that's the case, as it seems to be, anyway, at least based on Sen. Joker Arroyo's pronouncement, it seems JPE was giving discredit where it is not also even due.

So where did JPE get it all? If his disclosure was true, it should be the great grandmother of all scams in this country. Imagine? Some 20 million people? Duped?

* * *

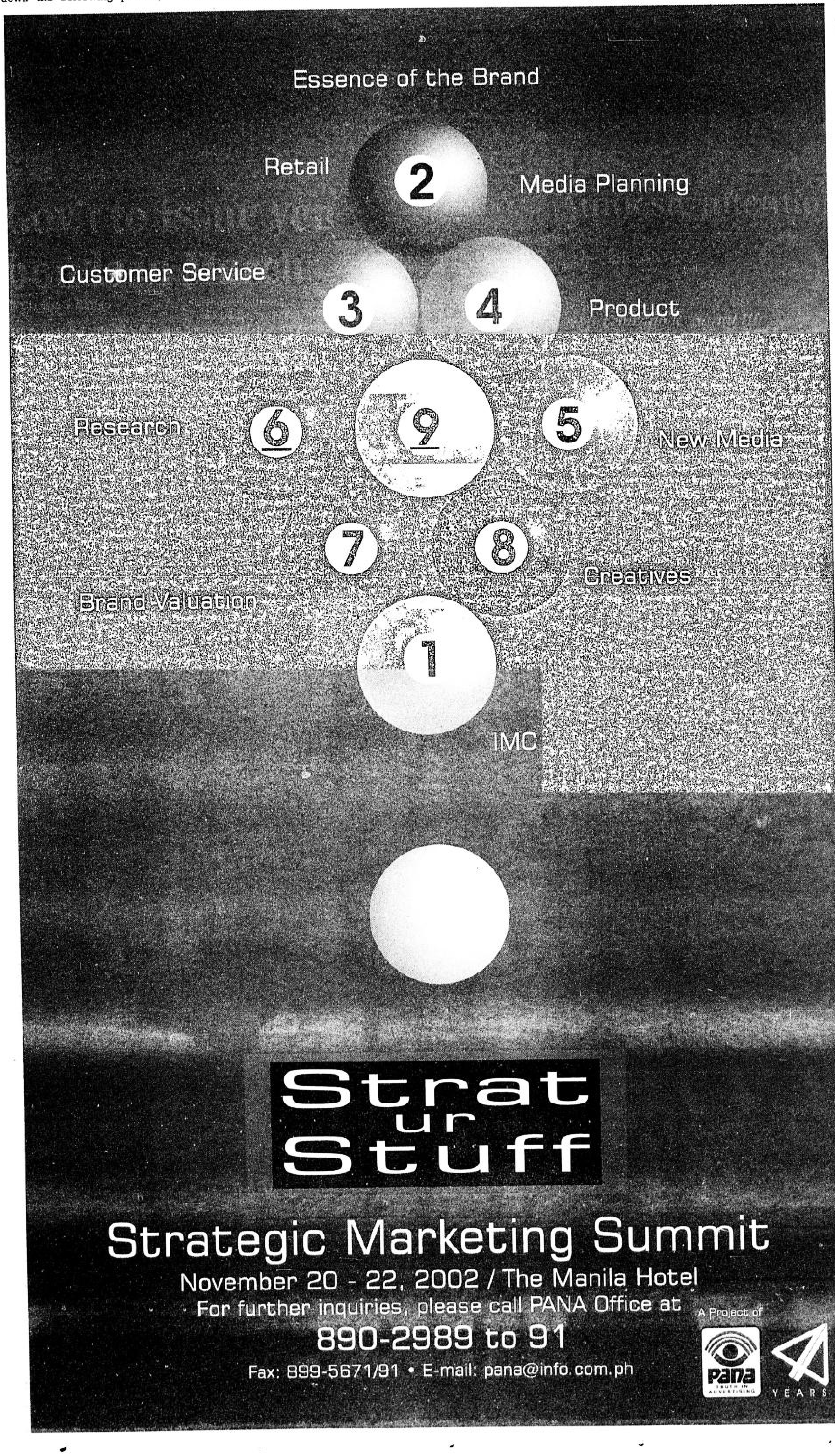
MERALCO'S franchise area accounts for something like 70 percent of the economy. So how stupid was this Meralco that it thought it could get away with an obvious scam?

Meralco must be the most stupid company in the world. For one, JPE simply surmised his exposé from the very same data which Meralco submitted to the ERC.

That's the Energy Regulatory Commission, formerly the ERB when it was just a "board." JPE got the data from Meralco's documents given to the ERB or the ERC.

If JPE had the goods on Meralco, my neighbor even wanted him to sue all the ERB and the ERB members. That was negligent of them. They let Meralco fry us!

It is definitely something to send those people to jail for, and yet JPE chose to wage his war in the Senate in complete public view. Just like an exhibitionist.



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BSP keeps key rates unchanged

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said its policy-making Monetary Board yesterday decided to keep the overnight rates steady at a decade-low of 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending.

The move was widely anticipated as BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had said the Monetary Board might consider slashing key overnight rates in the fourth quarter if the US Federal Reserve lowered its policy rates substantially.

The BSP, which usually tracks the US Fed rate in interest rate policy, has not changed its rates for over six months, the longest it has kept rates steady. It last adjusted its rates on March 14.

In the meantime, the peso closed 53.35 to $1 yesterday after spiking to 53.35 to $1 right after the government announced a nine-

BSP/ B3

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 23, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	18	18.25	52,000
Bank f the Phil. Islands	40.5	41	40.5	40.5	279,600
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26	313,200
First E-Bank Corp.	1	1	1	1	90,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	30.5	31	173,800
Philippine National Bank	23	23	23	23	21,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.25	12,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.25	16.75	16.75	26,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	110,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1220	1230	1220	1230	1,540
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	60,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	975	975	975	975	1,820
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	11,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	310,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	400	400	395	397.5	15,700
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.02	0.016	0.017	13,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.9	104,000
Piltel	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	230,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	350,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	210	218	209	215	281,500
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	3,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14	14.5	22,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	20.75	19.5	19.5	1,389,600
Petron Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	312,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.18	2.18	2.14	2.14	713,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	17,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	7,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	4,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	80,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	280,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	55	244,500
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58.5	58	58.5	450,700
Universal Robina Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	86,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.75	965,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.06	2,000,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.22	2.26	2.22	2.26	662,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	280,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.185	0.185	1,080,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	1,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	1,200,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	9,900
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	56,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.56	460,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	2,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	520,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,420,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.52	135,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	141,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	17	17	17	17	2,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	4,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	3,400
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	64,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16.75	17	16.5	17	2,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	6,144,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	105,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,920,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.115	0.12	2,000,000
Eib Realty Developers Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.96	510,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	100,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	150,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	-1.04	1.04	1.04	228,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	2,067,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	160,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	3,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,142,560	30,906,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	35,298,700	150,041,430.00
PRO	15,424,000	43,214,970.00
Mining	5,180,000	56,200.00
OIL	3,000,000	27,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	60,045,260	224,246,050.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	397.34	DOWN 5.32
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,402.31	DOWN 5.43
PRO	450.18	DOWN 2.53
Mining	1,110.60	UP 25.79
OIL	1.16	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	630.76	DOWN 2.20
Composite	1,012.86	DOWN 6.44

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 32; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 77; NO. OF TRADES: 1,348

DISCLOSURES

FILIPINO Fund Inc. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, 3 p.m. at the Turf Room of Manila Polo Club. Only stockholders of record as of Oct. 10 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

EXPORT and Industry Bank Inc. clarified that after its merger with Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Inc., it started the rationalization of its ten subsidiaries and affiliates. And among these, the bank has reactivated EIB Realty Developers Inc. (formerly Urbancorp Realty Developers Inc.), EIB Securities Inc. (formerly Urbancorp Securities Inc.) and Urbancorp Life and General Insurance Inc., while it has sold the Urbancorp Travel Services Inc. to Unilab Group last December.

***

BOULEVARD Holdings Inc. disclosed that its Thailand-based subsidiary, Alliance Technologies Thailand, was granted business partner status by US-based Avaya Systems. With this status the company will buy not less that $125,000 worth of telecommunications equipment from Avaya Thailand.

***

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. denied its subsidiary, Aboitiz Power Corp., forged a joint venture agreement with Philippine National Oil Co. for the second phase of the wind power project in Ilocos Norte. Neither has the company signed a memorandum of understanding for a joint feasibility study of the project.

***

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 15, 10 a.m. at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Only stockholders of record as of Oct. 21 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

SALCON Power Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 25, 10 a.m. in a venue to be announced later. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 30 are entitled to notice of the meeting.

***

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 11 at 5 p.m. at the Cebu County Club, Kasambagan, Cebu City. Record date is on Oct. 11.

***

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. on Oct. 21 bought 15,000 of its own shares at P32 per share.

***

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc. terminated the services of Bank of the Philippine Islands as transfer agent and designated Equitable-PCI Bank as its new stock transfer and dividend paying agent. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Oct. 23, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.02239	1	53.187
Japan	Yen	0.008175	0.007996	0.4253
United Kingdom	Pound	1.581127	1.5465	82.2537
Hongkong	Dollar	0.131094	0.128223	6.8198
Switzerland	Franc	0.681049	0.666134	35.4297
Canada	Dollar	0.651993	0.637714	33.9181
Singapore	Dollar	0.573507	0.560947	29.8351
Australia	Dollar	0.565481	0.553097	29.4176
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.711982	2.65259	141.0833
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272638	0.266667	14.1832
Brunei	Dollar	0.571423	0.558909	29.7267
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023444	0.022931	1.2196
UAE	Dirham	0.27836	0.272264	14.4809
Euro	Euro	1	0.9781	52.0222
Argentina	Peso	0.282428	0.276243	14.6925
Brazil	REAL	0.259885	0.254194	13.5198
Denmark	Kroner	0.134554	0.131607	6.9998
India	Rupee	0.021172	0.020708	1.1014
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269086	0.263193	13.9984
Mexico	New Peso	0.102526	0.100281	5.3336
New Zealand	Dollar	0.49544	0.48459	25.7739
Norway	Kroner	0.134681	0.131731	7.0064
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017358	0.016978	0.903
South Africa	Rand	0.100556	0.098354	5.2312
Korea	Won	0.000824	0.000806	0.0429
Sweden	Kroner	0.109275	0.106882	5.6847
Syria	Pound	0.023131	0.022624	1.2033
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029362	0.028719	1.5275
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000705	0.00069	0.0367

BSP keeps . . .

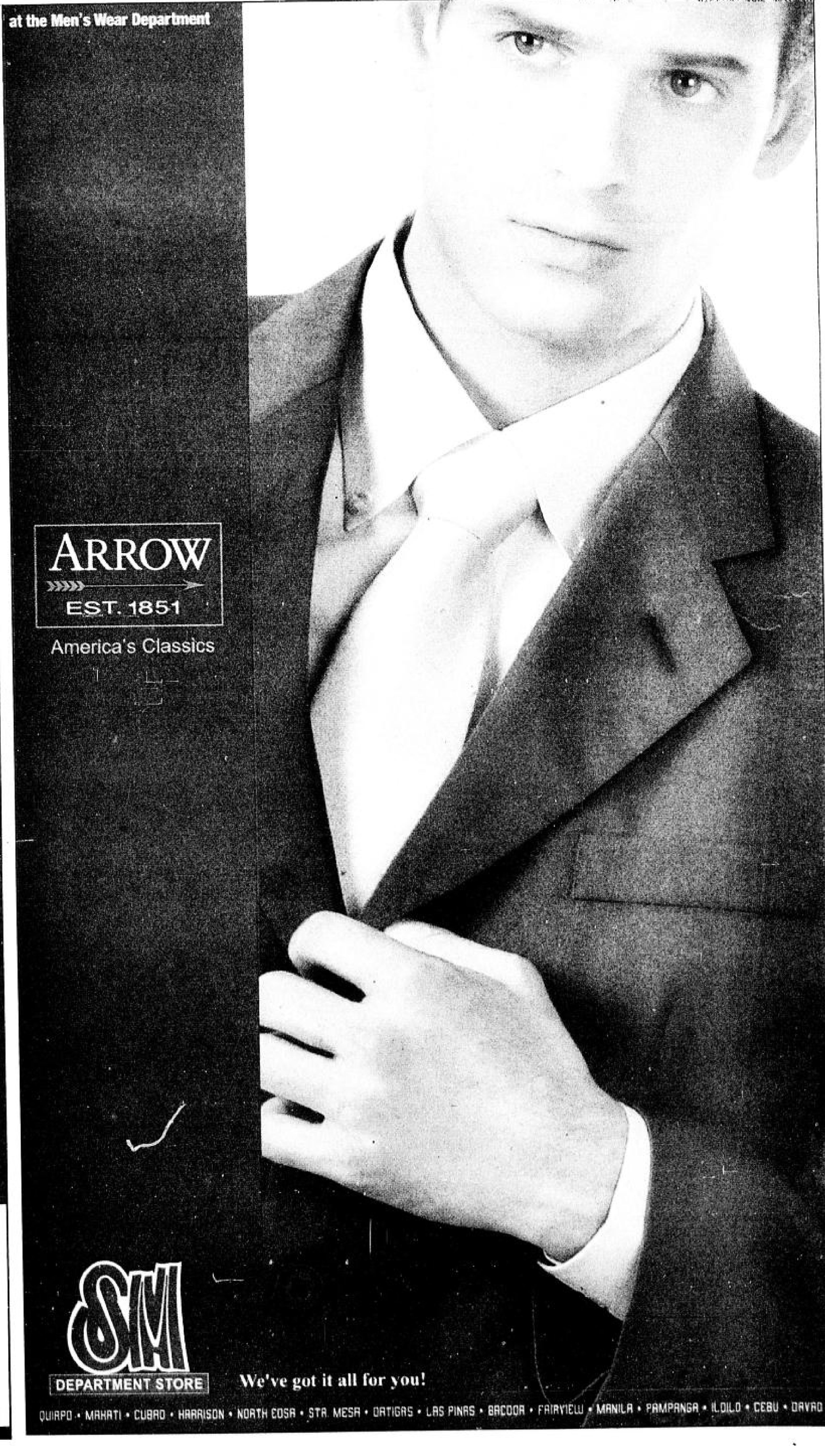
From page B2

month budget deficit of P166.4 billion.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank had stayed away from the market. "We have not been intervening. It's the threat of a possible intervention that makes the market calm down," said the central bank governor.

He added that the volatile peso in previous days was caused by a nervous reaction "to the bombings and bomb threats."

Buenaventura said the knee-jerk reaction to the deficit announcement died down after the central bank assured the market that the current fiscal gap was still tolerable. *Clarissa S. Batino*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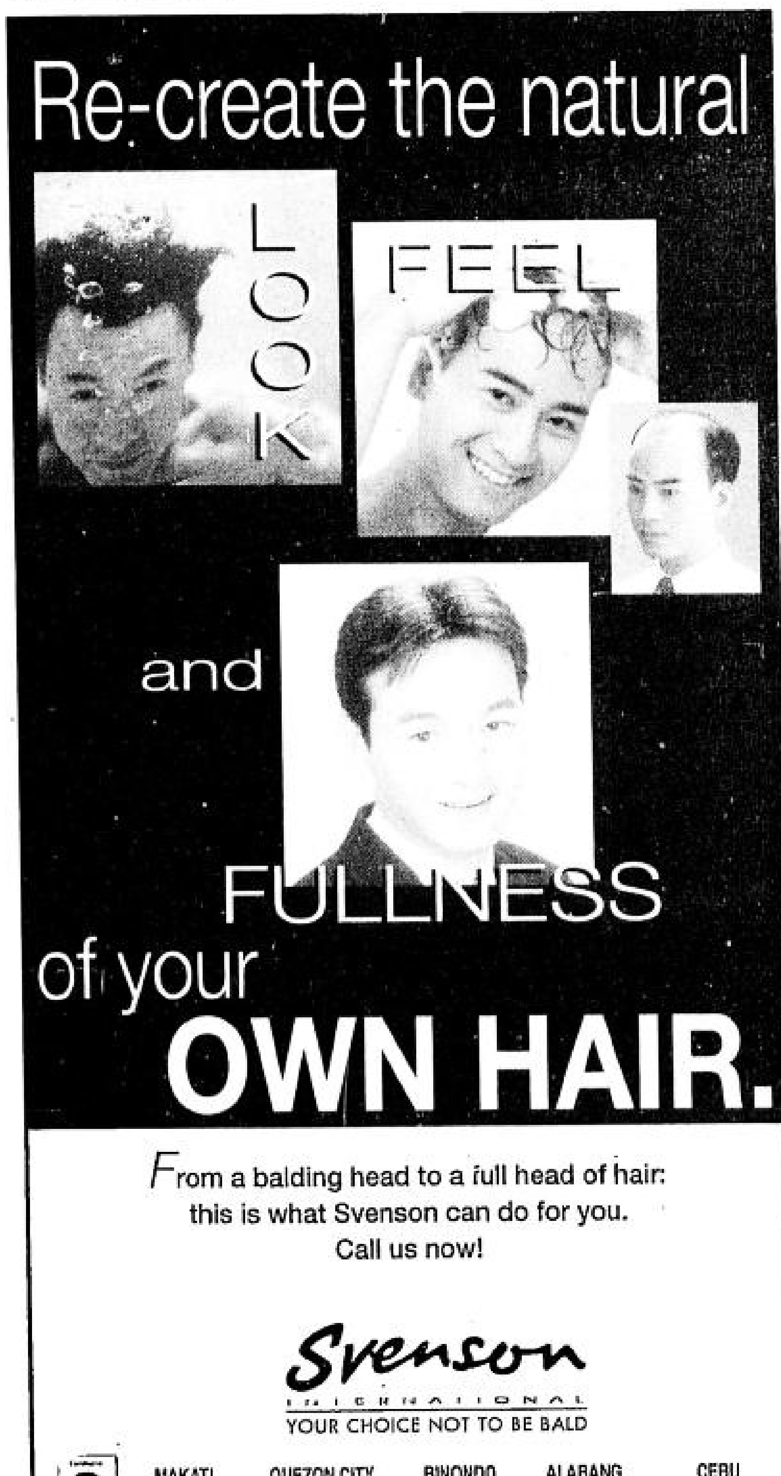
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MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

BLAST FROM THE PAST

How bubble-shaped car saved BMW from financial ruin

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

A PEEK at this egg-shaped, tiny piece of metal reveals an astonishing discovery. Once, for a company that created the "ultimate driving machine," this meek, bubble-shaped automobile was the superhero.

Let's linger a bit more in much more recent memory. From Oct. 2 to 6, the World Trade Center in Pasay City was temporary home to vintage cars such as a 1969 Ford Mercury Cougar convertible, a Jaguar 1953 XK 120 Roadster, a 1955 Chevy Bel-Air two-door hardtop, a 1969 Corvette Stingray, a 1932 American Austin and a 1929 Ford Model A which captured the Best in Show award. The occasion was the 13th season of Motorshow International, an auto and cycle competition.

The vintage car lineup not only transformed the World Trade Center into a massive showroom but it turned the venue into a trip down memory lane.

Cutest wheels

And right in the middle of them all was one of the cutest wheels this writer ever saw: a vibrant red 1959 BMW Isetta 300.

Nicknamed the "Rolling egg," this Isetta model on display carried the original BMW hub cabs, BMW locking gas cap, even a sunroof. And lo and behold, the car opened at the front—the dashboard and entire front end hinged outward and away from the driver. The 4-foot-10-inch tall bubble car has air-cooled engine. In the event of a (frontal) crash, the canvas sunroof allowed the driver and passenger an escape route. The Isetta had a pair of closely spaced rear wheels and two wheels in front driven by a tiny 9.5-hp motorcycle engine.

The Isetta we saw at the WTC was 100-percent all original—from body to parts—and is in perfect running condition, said owner Jim Escuin, a restorer of classic cars and bicycles. Escuin is a member of the Vintage Car Club Owners of the Philippines.

Running on premium gasoline, the four-speed Isetta traveled from Cubao to the World Trade Center via Sta. Mesa, Nagtahan, United Nations and Roxas Boulevard at speeds between 60 and 70 kph driven by Escuin. The transport required convoys at the front and back to prevent buses and trucks from getting too close.

Escuin said that despite the years, his Isetta was still in good running condition.

Not revealing how much he spent to get an Isetta, Escuin just hinted that in Germany, Isettas could be found in museums, and are not even for sale.

Escuin's bubble car was purchased from another vintage car enthusiast. He considers himself lucky not just for getting the car, but for having to restore only 30 percent of the model, as the body was still basically intact. He had to do some tinkering on the engine, though.

The 1959 BMW Isetta 300 (for 300-cc engine displacement) was considered the strangest looking car at the time. Production of this model, however, ceased by the turn of the decade.

Powered by a 1-cylinder air-cooled motorcycle engine, the Isetta was designed by Italian industrialist Renzo Rivolta of Iso and engineer Ermenegildo Preti.

Said Escuin: "Rivolta of Italy makes Italian scooters. It was during a rain when he realized that a scooter needed a body, so the Isetta was produced,"

Licensed to BMW and introduced in 1955, the "rolling egg" was designed for cheap, short distance transport.

Postwar struggle

BMW was a reputable manufacturer of motorbikes and automobiles before World War II. However, it was not spared the ravages of war, as four of its five production facilities were destroyed and its remaining factory in Munich had been heavily bombed. Sanctions from the victorious Allies prevented BMW from producing cars for another three years.

Its first postwar motor vehicle, the 501, was produced in 1951. Its V8 successor, the 502, priced at more than three times the average annual wage then, was not what the market wanted. From 1951 to 1964, fewer than 20,000 units were sold. BMW was in danger of a buyout from archrival Mercedes-Benz. By 1955, BMW badly needed a moneymaker.

Then came Iso and his unconventional Isetta.

Iso wanted to concentrate on developing a mainstream sportscar and required funds for the forthcoming Rivolta sports coupè. Iso decided to sell its rights and machinery to produce the more placid Isetta. Along with manufacturers from France and Brazil, BMW acquired the license to build and market the Isetta.

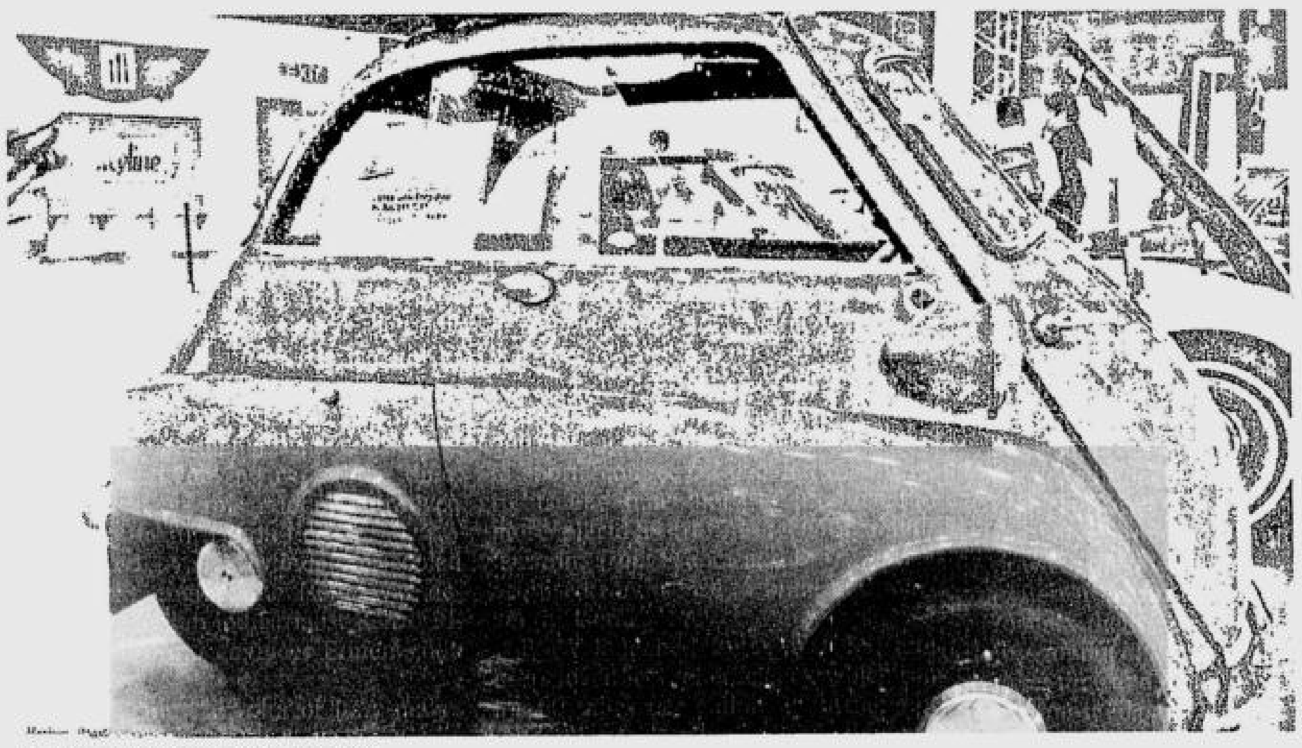
BMW launched Isetta in 1955, and users loved its fuel efficiency, which ran for 60 miles per gallon. It further upgraded Isetta's engine and gave the car a top speed of 50 mph—perfect for Britain's urban and rural roads.

BMW produced 160,000 Isettas until 1964, by which time the bubble car craze was in decline. By mid-1960s, the age of austerity was over and Europe was ready for medium-sized cars.

Nevertheless, it was Isetta that saved BMW from being a post-war casualty. It is considered that without the Isetta, BMW might not exist today.

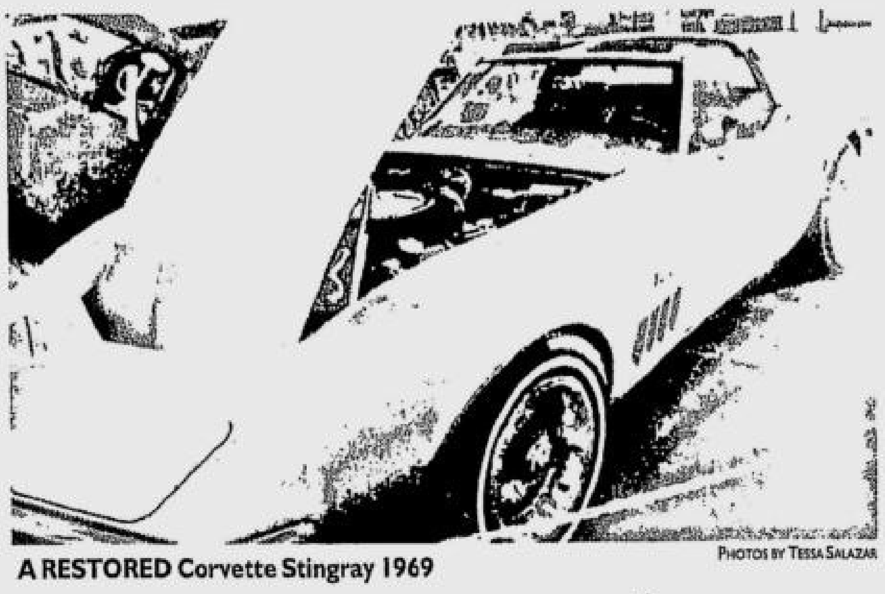
Kids and grownups, friends, and even strangers, would always want to hitch a ride or even borrow Escuin's bubble car. Escuin discovered that it wasn't only the look and the make that made the rolling egg interesting.

Even its history was worth looking at.



DIMINUTIVE Isetta in all its glory

HATCHLINGS? Nope, it's Vintage Car Club of the Philippines president Ding Jose with Escuin inside the 'rolling egg.'



A RESTORED Corvette Stingray 1969

PHOTOS BY TESSA SALAZAR

Restoration galore

RESTORING vintage cars is a touchy procedure. This couldn't just be done in any shop.

Vintage Car Club president Ding Jose said each member of the Vintage Car Club understands cars, reads manuals on how to restore model units, as well as knows how to import original parts abroad. One major requirement is that engines should be all-original and should be in good running condition, he said. According to him, every car that was displayed by the club was original—from engines down to the door rubber.

Restoring cars from the ground up to make them feel and look like they just got out of the factory yesterday takes time and money.

Almost all parts are ordered abroad. The lowest a restorer spends is about P500,000, and from there the sky's the limit. A vintage Jaguar owner, for instance, spent more than P3 million to fully restore the car.

Jose said that it is in other countries that one will find specialized shops where parts are being sold for perfect restoration. Most cars restored, Jose noted, were American models.

The Vintage Car Club of the Philippines has 65 active members. It could no longer find a '30s car, according to Jose. And since the club used to require prospective applicants that they must first own a prewar automobile, the club had revised its rules for membership.

AMERICAN Austin Circa 1932

The oldest running car the club has, though, is a 1926 Ford owned by Romy Lupena.

The oldest surviving member, meanwhile, is a 70-year-old foreigner. Most members are aged 50 and above. The youngest is 18-year-old Laura Santos who owns a vintage Corvette Stingray.

There is no price cap to a perfect restoration procedure. Members realize that the sky is the limit when spending for restoration. The obsession for restoring old vehicles should be matched by very deep pockets.

While other members restore just for the sake of restoring, others do it for sentimental reasons. An old automobile, for example, could be handovers from grandparents. Restoring their old cars honors their legacy.

Tessa R. Salazar

Ziebart offers 50% discount on major products, services

FROM NOW until Nov. 15, Ziebart offers the best of its world-class, automotive protection, detailing services and accessories at an enormous 50 percent discount.

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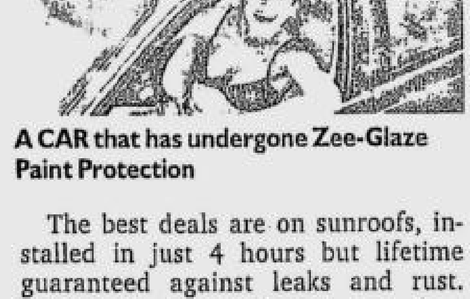
- Ziebart Spray-on Liner—the toughest, longest-lasting bedliner for cargo and utility vans, which doubly protects the vehicle bed from cargo and rust damage.
- Ziebart window tints, guaranteed not to delaminate, peel, or crack.



A CAR that has undergone Zee-Glaze Paint Protection

The best deals are on sunroofs, installed in just 4 hours but lifetime guaranteed against leaks and rust. With the power model, save as much as P19,500 from the regular price of P39,500. On the manual pop-model, save P8,750 or half the P17,500 regular price.

Still other Ziebart products and services such as our Zee-Glaze Paint Protection and other major detailing packages are available. The 50 percent discount is on a first-come, first-served basis with advanced booking available.

Drive into any Ziebart–CarSavers location or call 889-4144 in Makati; 671-9801 in Pasig; 525-6273 in Manila; or 232-3715 in Cebu.

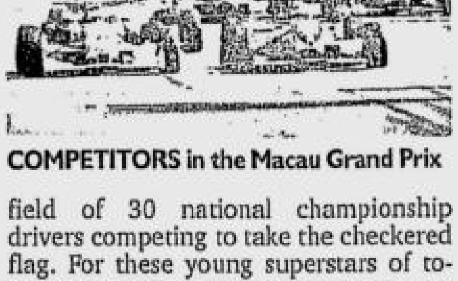
The fast and the furious in Macau

THE FASTEST wheels from around the globe are set to meet on the streets of Macau on Nov. 16 and 17 for the 49th International Macau Grand Prix. More than 300 racing drivers and riders, as well as thousands of motor sports fans, are expected to descend on the territory for the world's only street circuit race meeting which features both car and motorcycle races.

The biggest of its kind here in Asia, race fans and sports enthusiasts flock to the grandstands lining the streets of Macau every year to witness the international motor sports premier of Formula 3 that determines which drivers will join the Formula 1 elite. Also a leading contest for motorcycles and production cars, the Macau Grand Prix takes place over a 6.2-km road circuit with bayside straightaway courses and hillside hairpin bends closely resembling that of Monaco where the prestigious Formula 1 Race is held.

Macau Grand Prix

Originally conceived in 1954 as an amateur event for local motoring enthusiasts by its Portuguese pioneers, the Macau Grand Prix today is a race where the world's leading riders and drivers vie for entries. It is included in the international racing calendar and for the past four years, it has ranked as the F3 world championship.



COMPETITORS in the Macau Grand Prix

As one of the major highlights, the Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix will see a field of 30 national championship drivers competing to take the checkered flag. For these young superstars of tomorrow, a win at Macau can guarantee the driver a place in a top Formula 3000 team or, in the case of exceptional talent, an immediate invitation to move in to the pinnacle of motor racing, Formula 1.

The late Ayrton Senna's win in 1983, the first year Formula 3 ran at Macau, put the Grand Prix firmly on the worldwide motor racing calendar. F1 world champion Michael Schumacher quickly established himself as the hottest property in F1 after his win in 1990, while David Coulthard's victory the following year brought him to the attention of the F1 fraternity. More recently, 1999 runner-up Jenson Button jumped from the Macau podium straight to Formula 1, and three-time Macau Grand Prix competitor Alex Yoong just made his F1 debut. Unknown to many, Filipino champion racer Dodjie Laurel has earned a place in the Macau Grand Prix Museum for winning two consecutive races.

Guia Race

Macau's Guia Race for touring cars is also something to look forward to. The Guia circuit is recognized as one of the most demanding in the world with an exhilarating combination of long, fast straights and sharply twisting corners.

Very few races for this category take place on street circuits, and none other can boast an entry from so many different national series for a one-off festival of international touring car racing. This year's race will see many of the world's front-running cars and drivers line up on the grid.

Motorcycle Grand Prix

For two-wheel fans the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, now on its 35th year, is always a memorable event. Like its F3 counterpart, the Motorcycle Grand Prix regularly features a host of Grand Prix and Street Specialist superstars such as Kevin Schwantz, Carl Fogarty, Didier de Radigues and Ron Haslam.

Feel the buzz and catch the action in the colorful city of Macau. A group of selected travel agents are currently offering Explore Macau Holiday Packages for the 49th Macau Grand Prix, which includes, aside from access to the Grandstand, day tours to Macau's historic landmarks.

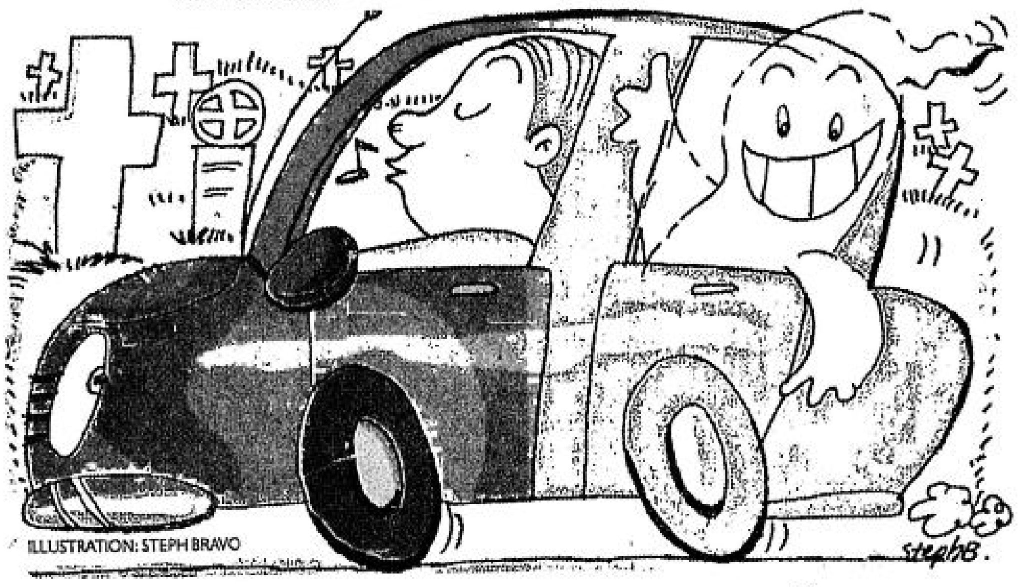


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Driving suggestions for All Saints' Day

FILIPINOS celebrate All Saints' Day like all typical Filipino holidays. This means merriment alongside observance of religious duties to loved ones who have passed on to the afterlife.

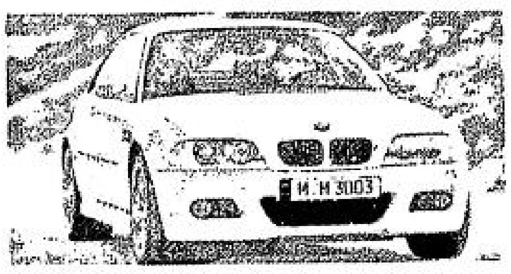
Scenes in cemeteries are more relaxed and jovial, rather than mournful. But while families, relatives and friends troop to the cemeteries, they are still a huge cause of concern on the nation's highways.

Prestone, the country's top brand for brake fluids and radiator coolants, offers the following tips to give ease to Filipino motorists on the road come Nov. 1:

- Leave in plenty of time before going to your destination. Expect roads to be crowded, and traffic to be usually bad, so allot some time before you leave for the cemetery or even more time in case you're going home to the province.
- Check your vehicle's tire pressure, fan belts, engine hoses and fluid levels before the trip. Make sure the spare tire is inflated and emergency tools are in the trunk. You don't want to get stuck on the highway with a stalled car.
- Stack and secure candles, food, tables and chairs properly in the back of your car or pickup.
- Make sure you've brought everything you need for the trip.
- On the road, leave plenty of room between your car and other vehicles in case of sudden stops. Make sure your brake system is working perfectly. Watch out for pedestrians and street peddlers who will be swarming the streets.
- If taking a long trip, take frequent breaks to do some stretching and to avoid fatigue. Stop for snacks or lunch at restaurants along the highway.
- The safest place for children to ride is in the back seat, so make sure they are properly secured in a seat belt or child safety seat.
- Stay out of the "no zone," the dangerous areas around large trucks. Trucks have deep blind spots in the rear and side areas. They also sometimes make wide turns which may cause accidents to careless drivers.

The holidays can produce stress, which is reflected in the way we drive. According to a survey abroad, 41 percent of respondents report experiencing road rage during the holidays, and 25 percent said that worrying about meeting all commitments during the holidays most likely causes them to experience road rage during the holidays.

- Condition yourself to being patient and cool during the trip.
- After the trip, don't drive when you have been drinking or when you're exhausted. Despite the crackdown on alcohol in cemeteries, some stubborn Filipinos insist on drinking even during All Saints' Day. This is particularly recurrent driving during the holidays, but increased traffic makes this particularly dangerous. Drivers should take extra caution to ensure the safety of everyone in the vehicle.
- Don't be haunted by engine and vehicle problems on All Saints' Day. Ensure proper maintenance and help improve your vehicle's brake and cooling system by always checking its fluid levels.



BMW M3

BMW M3 now with sequential manual gearbox

FOR ENTHUSIASTS of ultimate automotive performance, it's a magic name: BMW M3. Combining the all-around excellence of the BMW 3 Series with the spectacular performance and handling prowess that could only come from BMW M, the M3 is the formidable BMW sports car that has won—again and again—the accolades of the world's motoring critics while providing its buyers with real performance and equally real practicality.

Fitted with the second-generation sequential M gearbox (SMG II), this technology offers the choice of driving in sequential or automatic mode. It enables the driver to shift gears quickly, accurately and dependably while offering enhanced comfort and safety.

With peak power at 343 bhp at 7,900 rpm and maximum torque of 365 Nm at 4,900 rpm, the M3 with SMG is capable of speeds up to 250 km/h (electronically limited) and acceleration from 0 to 100 km/h is a mere 5.2 seconds.

Despite its high worldwide demand, BMW Group Philippines is bringing a limited number of units into the country. For a glimpse of the M3 with SMG, visit Prestige Cars Makati on Chino Roces Avenue from Oct. 17 to 31.

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VISIT YOUR NEAREST GOODYEAR SERVITEK OUTLET NOW.

A whole new perspective for Trooper passengers

By Charles E. Buban

WANT to feel like a presidential candidate on a campaign trail? Well, you can start by wearing your best smile and practicing your most passionate arm waving.

Then try to hitch a ride on Isuzu's latest Trooper: the one with the Skyroof. Yes, this sport-ute has an access up above the roof where you can slip through and see all those people looking back at you wondering if it's already 2004.

The 2003 Trooper Skyroof Edition is much wider than your ordinary retractable roof panel, thanks to its 700 mm x 1,030 mm dimension, the biggest in the market.

"I believe the Trooper is the first among the locally sold SUVs (compact, midsize or full size) here to offer the Skyroof. This electrically operated Skyroof is even made longer and wider, affording even the passengers at the second row seats a view of the sky," said Isuzu Philippines EVP Hiroshi Ishino during the launch held at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Cavite.

ISUZU Philippines president Toru Koyasu, right, and EVP Hiroshi Ishino try the skyroof

Fun features

Apart from the Skyroof, Isuzu also added a video entertainment package that promises owners of the 2003 Trooper great time while aboard this sport-ute.

The latest Trooper is equipped with a single in-dash CD/VCD player with a built-in MPEG system and two headrest-mounted 5.6" LCD monitors that guarantee hours of pleasure on the road.

The handsome audio unit of the new Trooper also features an organic electroluminiscent display.

Adding to the cozy feeling inside the 2003 Trooper Sunroof Edition is the wrap-around woodgrain finish of the interior, combining with the tasteful beige leather seats to give the cabin a classy feel.

Distinctive qualities

While previous Trooper owners would love the impressive additions, they would also find that the new Trooper retains some of its distinct features like its stylish radiator and bumper airdam grille done in billet chrome type finish, as well as the attractive 16-inch, 12-spoke aluminum alloy wheels, side stepboards with end caps, and a sleek spare tire cover.

The new Trooper is still powered by the 3.0L 4JX1-TC intercooled turbo engine that is rated to provide a maximum output of 160 ps at 3,900 rpm.

"We have proven that this powerful engine is also fuel efficient as we found out during the recent Isuzu Challenge eco-drive where the Trooper achieved an impressive 30.82 km to a liter of fuel performance," said Ishino.

Indeed, the new Trooper Skyroof Edition will definitely give you prestige and power at a price not only politicians may afford.

The 2003 Trooper is priced at P1.549 million or just a P50,000 increase from its previous price considering the additional features cost P80,000.

Isuzu Philippines is confident their new Trooper will perform nicely in the market. "We intend to sell 200 units per month or 30 percent more than our current monthly average," announced Toru Koyasu, president of Isuzu Philippines.

GET a better view of the sky from the second row seats

2003 Isuzu Trooper Skyroof Edition

Road tests and tours: Ford Escapes to Cebu

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IF anyone deserves a prize for promoting local tourism in these perilous times, it's the car manufacturing sector for testing their products on Philippine roads and off-roads nationwide.

Last month, for instance, Isuzu Philippines Corp. organized a fuel economy run from its Alabang, Metro Manila dealership to White Cove Resort, Nasugbu, Batangas with 46 Isuzu vehicles driven by motoring journalists.

Before this, from June 19 to 22, Isuzu brought motoring journalists to Mayon Volcano and other scenic spots in the Bicol region to test the mettle of eight vehicles (two Troopers, two Crosswind XUVs, one Hi-Lander Crosswind XTRM, two Fuego 4x4 pickups and one Fuego 4x2 pickup) as well as the trekking, spelunking, white-water rafting and swimming abilities of the participants.

Last Wednesday, Isuzu invited the motoring press to Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Trece Martires, Cavite, for a game of golf and the launching of the 2003 Trooper Skyroof Edition.

Nissan cars have been doing a lot of road tours, too. Earlier this year, from April 5 to May 3, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. proved that the Sentra Exalta Superio is reliable as well as snazzy when two units were driven by professional drivers in a 30,866-km cross-country endurance run from Luzon to Mindanao.

Also last summer, Honda Cars Philippines Inc., in cooperation with the Department of Tourism's WOW Philippines campaign, dispatched a convoy of eight vehicles (three all-new 2002 CR-Vs, four Civics and one City Type-Z) from Davao up to Aparri, Northern Luzon, then back to the Honda assembly plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Ford Group Philippines, the first to demonstrate the off-road capabilities of its 4x4 vehicles on Mount Pinatubo, brought the motoring press to Eden Nature Park in Davao on Sept. 12 to test-drive the Escape, the compact sport utility vehicle that Ford launched on the first day of the month.

Ford did a repeat last week, this time in Cebu, inviting motoring journalists who had missed the Davao test-drive. The overnight venue for the Ford Escape Media Ride & Drive was the spectacularly beautiful five-star Alegre Beach Resort in Calumboyan, Sogod, 66 kilometers north of Cebu City.

Ford prepped for the occasion five Escape 4x4 XLTs, three with automatic transmission (AT) and two manual (MT). We were assigned two to a car with a Ford junior executive riding tandem. We found out soon enough why Ford chose the route from Cebu City to Sogod and back for the test drive. After Danao, the halfway point, the road to Sogod becomes a scenic coastal highway, well-paved, excellently maintained and harboring some exhilarating twists and turns that challenge the car as well as the driver.

The Escape AT I was assigned to drive (taking the wheel at Danao after James Deakin of C! Magazine drove the first half) took the dangerous curves masterfully, thanks to its four-wheel independent suspension and stabilizer bar. But since the lead car we were following was a 205-horsepower Explorer Sport-Trac, how I wished that the Escape in my hands was equipped with a 3.0-liter, 24-valve DOHC V-6 powerplant instead of its standard 2.0-liter, 16-valve DOHC 4 cylinder-in-line Zetec engine! (The V-6 Escape is available only in the United States.)

The smooth roads leading to Alegre Beach Resort gave no opportunity to check out the Escape's ControlTrac II 4WD system. No other compact SUV has ControlTrac, which operates on the same principle as the upgraded, four-mode ControlTrac transfer case in the 2003 Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator. In the Escape, a knob on the instrument panel allows the driver to choose between two modes: "4x4 On," which sets the system into 50/50 torque split or "4x4 Auto," which automatically gives more torque to the rear wheels when the need arises to forestall front wheel slip.

The manual transmission Escape XLT we switched to on the return trip to Cebu City delivered more punch and was more responsive than the automatic. The Escape MT showed such promise that I did not bother to complain when the convoy failed to stop at the halfway point in Danao town to change drivers. Not having had a chance to road-test the manual transmission Escape in Cebu, I now have the perfect reason to road-test it in Metro Manila and provide readers a more thorough test-drive report afterward.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Speed like lightning, crash like thunder.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

RPN

AUTO EXTREME

AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Saturday, 4 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

WHAT is the difference between a turbocharger and a supercharger?

—*Emerson Garcia*

Both compress the air flowing into the engine and are called forced induction systems. Why compress the air? Because the more air that goes in, the more fuel you can burn and the more power you can make. So a turbo or supercharged engine produces more power overall than the same engine without the charging.

The big difference between a turbocharger and a supercharger is the power supply. Something has to supply the power to run the air compressor. A turbocharger is exhaust-driven. It is powered by the amount of exhaust gas that runs through the turbine. A supercharger, on the other hand, is belt-driven because it is connected directly to the crankshaft with a belt.

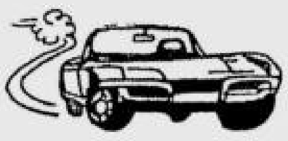
Both systems have their pros and cons. In theory, a turbocharger is more efficient because it is using the "wasted" energy in the exhaust stream for its power source. But it does have a boost threshold. Meaning below a certain rpm, there just won't be enough exhaust gases to create the boost you want. A supercharger already injects air into the system, even at extremely low rpm.

The dynamics behind setting up a supercharger are also much simpler, but it also costs a little more. But the thing going for current turbo kits is that they have more options and more room for expansion.

What's the bottom line? Either a turbo or a supercharger would be a great way to add bolt-on power. The one you use solely depends on your preference, how much money you have to spend, and how much time you have to spare.

Welcome to Hyundai country

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

BEEN away too long I hardly knew the place, gee it's good to be back home.

That's not mine, of course. That's by The Beatles, a line from their hit song "Back In The USSR" from the White Album.

Gee, it's really good to be home. Traffic and all, there's really no place like home.

* * *

So what's new? The high-fivers of America will say, Wazzap? What have you been up to while I was away? Cleaned your room? Went to the beach? Played Rachmaninoff or Beethoven all day and forgot the world outside?

I can see nothing much has changed. The bombs greeted my return, but even that, like city traffic, wasn't something new anymore.

When was the last time a bus got exploded in the metropolis?

Aw, seems like only yesterday.

* * *

Busan in South Korea, home for me for 22 days while I covered the 14th Asian Games there, is worth talking about for now.

The city is South Korea's second largest, next only to the capital—Seoul.

But Busan is now the world's busiest port. The city is known for its ship-building prowess. A friend of mine, when he learned I was leaving for Busan last month, said: "Oh, I just love that city. I had four of my ocean-going ships built there."

* * *

The first time I was in Busan was in 1986. I went there to judge a boxing match (I am also an international judge for prize fighting, in case you have forgotten). Back then, to get there is to fly first to Seoul before boarding a connecting flight to Busan.

Sixteen years later, flights are aplenty. The Philippine Airlines flies direct to Busan three times a week. I could hardly recognize the place now.

Busan, literally, has grown by leaps and bounds. Whereas before, you could hardly see high-rise hotels, today, the hills are dotted with skyscrapers that give a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean.

* * *

Tourists are everywhere. Busan, a city of four million, is like a small New York City. Its lights are open all evening. Many night spots don't close until 4 a.m.

There are 10,000 Filipinos working there, many of them entertainers. Nine out of 10 nightclubs, pubs and entertainment spots have either a Filipino band or Filipinos for singer/s. The lowest-paid Filipino entertainer there gets P40,000 a month—free board and lodging.

A place I had frequented to unwind with some fellow Filipino journalists after a hard day's work had a Filipino couple (husband and wife) as entertainers. They did variety, but the Koreans' favorite is still Freddie Aguilar's "Anak." When we bade farewell, the lady singer had tears in her eyes, especially when she sent through us P10,000 for her daughter who was due for an operation.

* * *

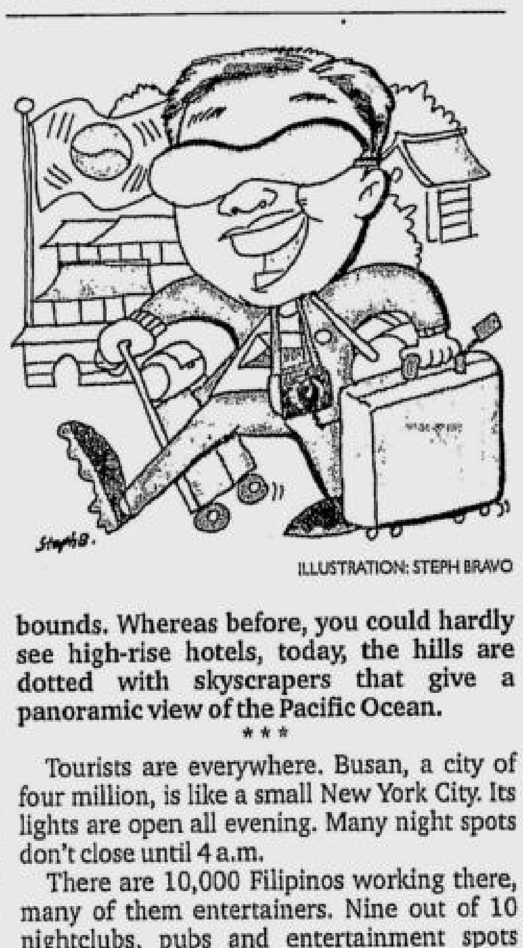


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

What struck me, though, was the Koreans' patriotism insofar as owning a car is concerned.

Nine hundred ninety-nine out of 1,000 Koreans drive a Hyundai; occasionally I see a Kia Carnival. They patronize their own that you will hardly see a foreign car. During the entire 22 days that I was there, maybe I only saw two BMWs, two Volvos and two Mercedes Benzes on the road.

Because I was told they still hate the Japanese, the Koreans avoid Japan-made vehicles. Korea was under Japan for 36 years.

My most vivid "vehicle memory" of Busan is its relatively clean and odorless air, the reason being that cars are fueled by LPG. With LPG, you minimize thick emissions of smoke, thus there is less air pollution.

There is traffic in Busan like the ones in Manila. But unlike Manila, traffic there is basically a moving traffic. Only the rich can afford taxis as the main form of transportation is the train/subway system. Buses, too, are very efficient as drivers are paid monthly; no commissions.

I have not explored the beaches of Busan, nor the city's world-famed aquarium. Didn't have the time. Maybe next time, when I'll go there basically for a visit—and a real taste of kimchi.

* * *

QUOTE ME: It's been said a million times but I'll say it again, though: It's not the destination, it's the trip.

NTC drafts new cable TV rules to ensure fair play

By Abigail L. Ho

IN view of Star Group Ltd.'s unilateral decision to pull out all its programs from Destiny Cable Inc.'s system, the National Telecommunications Commission has come up with a new set of guidelines to ensure fair play in the cable TV industry.

Emerging from a meeting with cable TV operators on Tuesday, acting NTC Commissioner Armi Jane Borje said the new rules would require program or content providers, distributors and vendors doing business in the country to register with appropriate government agencies.

The guidelines also prevent them from going into exclusivity agreements with any cable TV operator and stop them from doing anything that may lead to monopoly.

Under the new rules, foreign program providers, distributors and vendors must have an in-country local agent who will be responsible for the operations of their principals.

The local agents must ensure that program or content providers, distributors and vendors—foreign or local—refrain from engaging in unfair or discriminatory and anti-competitive practices in the sale or distribution of satellite cable and satellite broadcast programs.

PLDT, FIRST PACIFIC AFFAIR

Management buyout ruled out

By Doris C. Dumlao and Abigail L. Ho

TOP officials of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. ruled out yesterday any management attempt to buy out PLDT's majority owner, Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

A senior PLDT executive told the INQUIRER that PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan would not lead a management buyout or arrange any deal involving First Pacific's 24.5-percent controlling stake in PLDT.

The official said Pangilinan received proposals from "financial" investors interested in PLDT, but these offers would just be forwarded to First Pacific.

First Pacific announced in June that it would transfer its 24.5-percent controlling stake in PLDT to a $925-million joint venture with retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

The joint venture was also supposed to take on a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., a property unit of debt-laden Metro Pacific Co. Ltd., the Philippine flagship of First Pacific.

But the transaction failed to take off after the PLDT board, led by Pangilinan, refused to let the Gokongwei group conduct due diligence and effectively blocked the completion of the deal.

PLDT spokesperson Butch Jimenez said Pangilinan had never been involved in any effort to buy First Pacific out of PLDT.

Pangilinan is chair of First Pacific and was instrumental in the Hong Kong conglomerate's entry into the Philippine property and telecom businesses.

"It's not easy to put up a management buyout. You will need a lot of money," a company source privy to negotiations involving First Pacific's stake said.

He added that Pangilinan would also not broker a new offer to First Pacific, as this should be the job of investment bankers.

Two groups of investors abroad are said to be "seriously" eyeing First Pacific's stake in PLDT.

A person familiar with the matter confirmed that a number of companies were interested in taking control of the country's largest telecommunications firm, but only two were serious enough to actually work.

"Of course, many have expressed interest, but if we're talking about really serious interest, only these two can be considered serious enough," the source said.

He declined to name the two investors, but another source said these were Newbridge Capital Inc. and the Carlyle Group.

Another source said he had seen some of the new offers coursed through Pangilinan. These were from "financial" rather than "strategic" investors, he added.

"These are the investors who put money in different companies and are not engaged in the competing telecom business," he said. "They just want to buy, but as of now, they don't know how much First Pacific is willing to sell."

Asked whether the new offers were reasonable, the company source said: "These are good for the company, but at the end of the day, they will have to agree on the parameters."

Gov't will need 7,150 MW in 10 years, DOE says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES will have to build more power plants that can generate at least 7,150 megawatts over the next 10 years to avoid an energy crisis, Energy Undersecretary JV Emmanuel de Dios said yesterday.

In a news briefing, De Dios reported that the country's demand for electricity would grow by 7.6 percent in 10 years.

De Dios said this estimate was in line with projections that the local economy would expand by 5.4 percent a year.

The Department of Energy has completed the country's Philippine Energy Plan covering 2003-2012.

The energy plan outlines programs that the energy department has to formulate and implement to give the country a stable source of energy.

De Dios said the forecast of electricity demand was the basis for estimating the power sector's needed investments and projects for added generating capacity.

In determining demand projections for the next 10 years, the PEP adopted the National Economic and Development Authority's projections on gross domestic product growth, he said.

GDP accounts for the total amount of goods and services produced in a country every year, minus remittances from Filipinos who work abroad.

SEC finds more Glasglow Credit bank accounts

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABOUT 79 percent of some P893 million worth of net placements with Glasglow Credit and Collection Services Inc. may now be recovered following the discovery of more bank accounts kept by the dubious firm, a ranking official of the Securities and Exchange Commission said yesterday.

The official said four more Glasglow bank accounts were uncovered by authorities that would be added to the pool of funds that would compensate over 9,000 investors victimized by Glasglow.

It was earlier estimated that only 76 percent of net placements in Glasglow could be refunded using funds from accounts already frozen by the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

However, the official said the SEC could not give yet any time frame by which retail investors could start getting their share of the refunds.

Boulevard unit, Avaya Systems in telecom tie-up

ALLIANCE Technologies Thailand, an offshore unit of technology firm Boulevard Holdings Inc., has formed a business partnership with US telecom equipment maker Avaya Systems.

In a disclosure yesterday, Boulevard corporate secretary Ana Maria Katigbak said Alliance Technologies was granted a "business partner" status by Avaya.

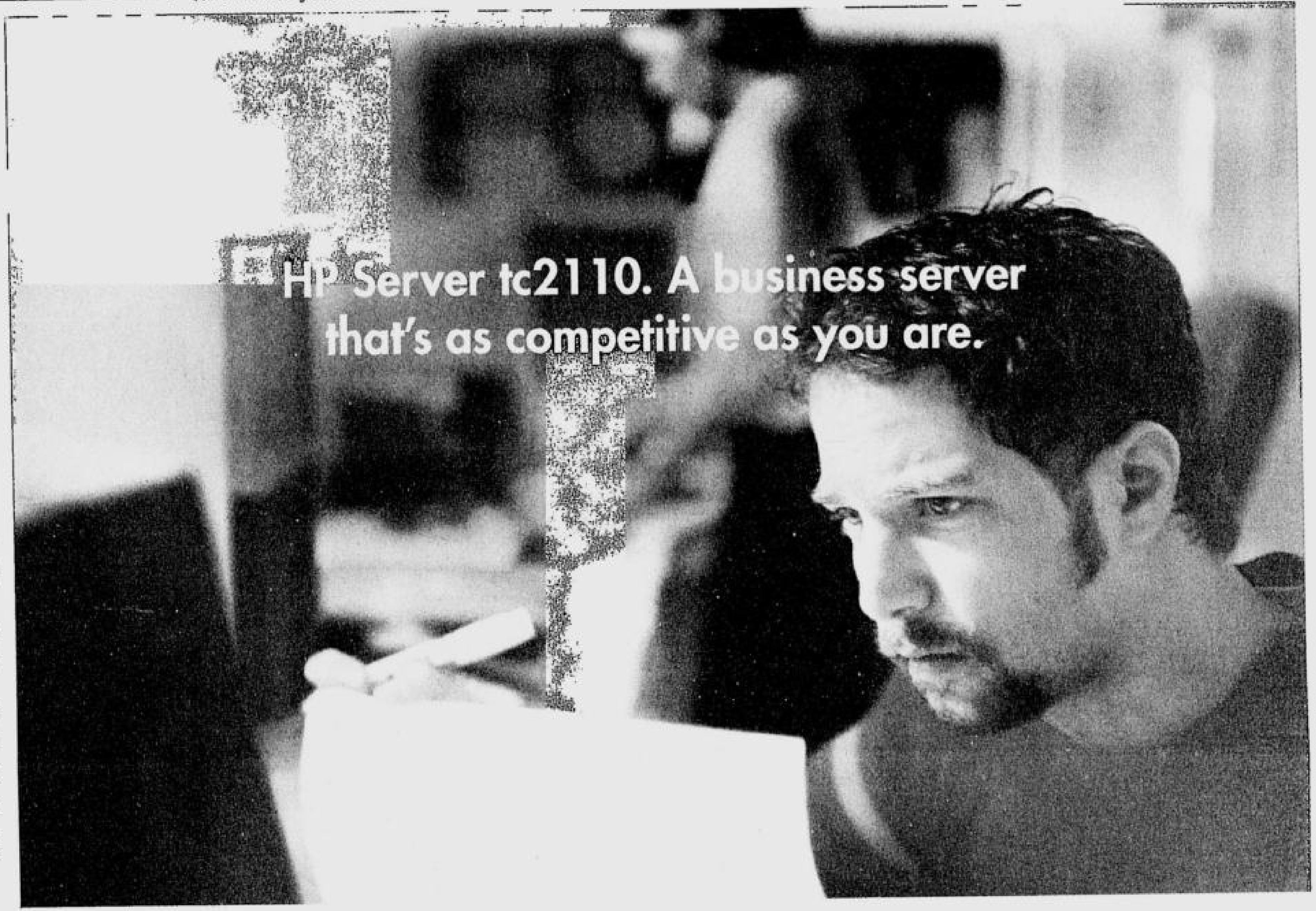
The partnership requires Alliance Technologies to buy at least $125,000 worth of equipment from Avaya.

The projected sales committed by Alliance Technologies to Avaya for the first year of the partnership were placed at 75 million Thai baht.

Alliance Technologies is 51 percent owned by Boulevard, 19 percent by Alliance Technologies Corp. and 30 percent by various Thai companies.

Avaya, formerly the Enterprise Network Group of Lucent Technologies, is a leading provider of communications systems and software solutions for business and government agencies.

Doris C. Dumlao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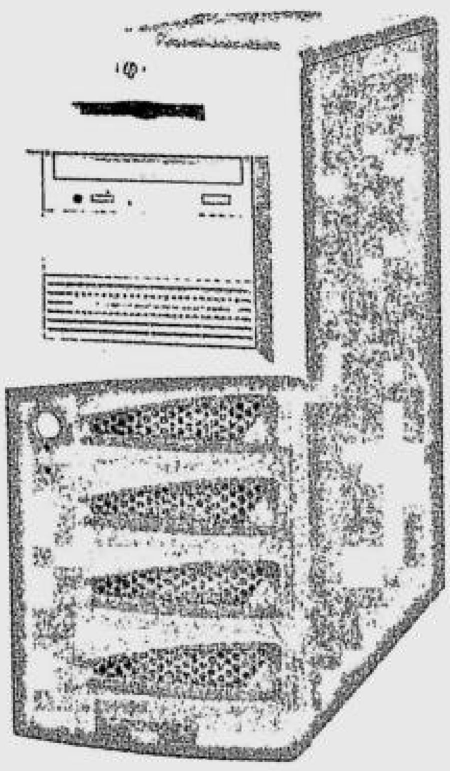

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Pru Life UK launches unit-linked life product

PRU LIFE UK, the only British life insurer in the Philippines, has launched its newest product, the Pru Link Investor Account this September.

Unit-linked products originated in Europe, and became known as variable life insurance products in the United States. Both refer to the same product template. A life insurance product becomes "variable" when the policy value at any time is linked to the investment funds, which are valued according to investment performance. Thus, the policy value directly reflects the fund value.

Another distinctive feature of unit-linked life insurance is the transparency of charges, where all investment elements, including charges, are made known to the policyholder at the outset. All deductions from the premium to cover various expenses by the company are clearly disclosed to the policyholder.

The premium is divided into insurance and investment portions, where the insurance coverage is usually a percentage of the total premium. The policyholder is given the freedom to "choose" the investment funds where his premiums will go. The fund is valued regularly and is divided into "units", which represent the policyholder's share in the fund. The value of the fund divided by the number of units is called the "unit price". An increase in the fund value increases the unit price, which likewise increases the policy's value.

Traditional life policies usually produce steady or fixed returns, while unit-linked products have a potential for higher returns, based on the market volatility. Unit-linked products are for those individuals who want control over the value, or growth, of their life policies. Additions or withdrawals can be made, and the policyholder also has the option of varying his protection-investment mix.

Pru Life UK, which is the local arm of the British insurance giant Prudential, is the first company to locally market this type of life product. Its counterparts in Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia have experienced tremendous success in marketing unit-linked insurance since the product came out in the early '90s. Bobby Madrid, president and CEO of Pru Life, believes the Philippine market is ready, especially during these times when there are very limited investment instruments for the public's financial needs. "We will let our consumers benefit from the financial expertise that Prudential is known for. Now, our policyholders will have direct control over their coverage and their investments."

'SUMASARAP ANG GISING' BAGS 4 AWIT AWARDS

True Faith, one of the country's top bands, won four Awit Awards recently for the Nescafe Classic song 'Sumasarap Ang Gising' in the Best Folk Pop Song, Best MTV, Best Performance by a Group, and Best Director categories. The Awit Awards are given to the country's best music performers to recognize their most deserving works. According to lyricist and Publicis-AMA executive creative director Russell Molina, 'Sumasarap ang Gising,' which he penned, is an ode to coffee. He said 'Sumasarap ang Gising' captures the warm feeling that Nescafe creates.' The members of True Faith celebrate with MTV director Robert Quebral (4th from right), lyricist Molina (3rd from right), account supervisor Hasmin Marable (2nd from right) and art director Julien Tan (right).

CANINE PARTICIPANTS IN 12TH PHILCONSTRUCT

The Makati K9 Unit, a search and detection unit of the Makati Police, is a proud participant in the first Fire, Safety and Security Exhibit, an exposition to be held back-to-back with Disenyo 2002 at the much awaited 12th Philconstruct trade fair. 12th Philconstruct is the only 3-in-1 trade fair that features every sector in the building and construction industry. Shown are Charity B. Casamayor, project sales executive, and Ruby C. Ocfemia, project manager of Convex International with Neptune and Oakey (Belgian Malinois) and their handlers Roy Gordon de la Cruz and Rolando Peralta of the Makati K9 unit. For more details on the 12th Philconstruct, call the exhibit manager of Convex International at 726-4128 to 30, 726-8664 to 65, fax 724-4578 or e-mail convex@mozcom.com.

The 'ultimate' guidebook to effective proposal writing

THE PROPOSAL Writing Guidebook has been written to enhance the chances of approval of worthy proposals submitted by Philippine NGOs, Foundations, Local Government Units (LGUs), and other non-profit organizations to local and international agencies for funding.

The Guidebook is the total NGO/Foundation resource in writing winning and successful proposals for funding of grant agencies.

It is the ultimate guide in helping NGOs/Foundations, LGUs, and other non-profit organizations prepare worthwhile community project proposals that aim to help underprivileged or disadvantaged members of the community. These project proposals could be drug prevention and awareness programs, family planning programs, health education programs, environmental issues, micro credit/micro finance, poverty alleviation programs, social services, and other worthwhile community-based projects that will lead to the betterment of the lives of the people living in the community.

The guidebook will let NGOs/Foundations, LGUs, and other non-profit organizations use it as a blueprint in the research phase, preparation and actual writing of community and social-oriented proposals.

It also provides a ready wealth of information and resources on international and Philippine funding sources. It has a detachable exercise workbook that proposal writers can use to hone their proposal writing skills, and they can use the Guidebook as their template when writing actual proposals.

Interested NGOs, Foundations, LGUs and other non-profit organizations who wish to get a copy of the Proposal Writing Guidebook can call Tritium Knowledge Center at 531-0084 or 535-4139 for order inquiries, or send an e-mail to tkcp_ph@yahoo.com.

Nu Skin business opportunities

FOR THOSE who want to venture into entrepreneurship, Nu Skin Philippines presents new business opportunities via multi-level marketing (MLM). MLM is a thriving industry where goal-oriented, determined and hard-working individuals continue to reap the rewards of their labor. To introduce the different facets of the Nu Skin business, the company will be mounting a Business Exposition and Power Business Opportunity Meeting (BOM) on Oct. 25, Friday, 2:30 to 8 p.m. and Oct. 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Nu Skin Philippines' Training Center, 15th floor of the Octagon Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Dubbed as the "Opportunity of a Lifetime", Nu Skin Philippines invites distributors, friends and guests to attend. Attendance is free. For inquiries, call Nu Skin Philippines' distributor hotline at 689-0333 or log on to www.nuskin.com.ph.

SENSORMATIC PHILS AWARDED

Sensormatic Electronic Corp. Philippines, represented by Tony Borja, received two awards from Tyco/Sensormatic Mark Barry, vice president, security, and Gary Chan in the recent EAS Conference in Singapore July 18 in Outstanding Sales and Most Improved categories for the fiscal year 2001-2002.

COSMETIDERM IN OLONGAPO

Residents of Olongapo City can soon avail themselves of highly professional skin care services with the soon-to-open Cosmetiderm Surgicenter. Present during the recent franchise signing are Helen Gamboa (franchisee) with husband Caloy (left) and Drs. Manual and Pie Calayan, founders and owners of Cosmetiderm. Also shown are the Calayan kids. Cosmetiderm in Olongapo will offer the same quality of treatments that have made Cosmetiderm the favorite among celebrities and hundreds of other satisfied customers in Manila.

BITS Clips

Job hunting at the Town

ALABANG Town Center, the premier shopping and entertainment mall south of Manila, will hold a job fair Oct. 25 and 26 at the mall's Activity Center. More than 40 companies will participate in the event, including Globe Telecom, Fujitsu Computer Products, Toyota Alabang, Triple V Group of Companies, The Body Shop, WG&A Super Commerce, Home/Sky Cable, and Philam Plans Inc. The Job Fair is one of the signature community events mounted by Alabang Town Center.

'Strictly Confidential'

ONE NIGHT of raw decadence, wild fun and pure sensuality is the essence of "Strictly Confidential", a lingerie fashion show featuring the creations of designer Boying Estaquio. As a maiden offering of the newest events group, Melanie Productions, "Strictly Confidential" promises to set on fire the Alegria Lounge of Holiday Inn Manila on Oct. 24 with top sexy male and female Calcarrie models donning revealing underwear pieces from Estaquio's atelier. The show is under the direction of Cata Figueroa. Actress Angela Velez will join the underwear parade. Hairwatch provides the models' hair and makeup. "Strictly Confidential" is presented by DKT International, Club Panoly, Freysinet Wines and Smint. Show starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are available at all Pagcor outlets, or call Lany Alvarez at 785-8779 or 0919-5074122.

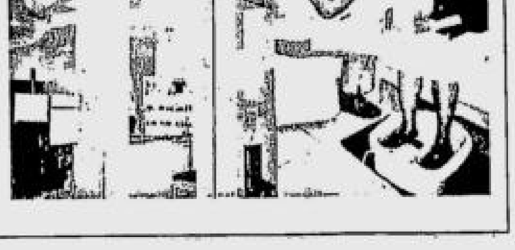
ProductFILES

Buff Spa healthy alternative launched

FEW people realize the importance of having healthy hands and feet, until it's too late.

A group of young Filipino-Chinese professionals launched Buff Spa hands and feet salon at the SM City Manila to cater to the health and beauty needs of Filipinos in this fast-paced and busy society.

Buff Spa implements a fully sterilized treatment to ensure 100-percent "fungi-free" service, providing what science considers great working partners of the human body the importance it really deserves.



Considered by many as the "foot salon" for specific foot care, Buff Spa's services are preventive treatments to avoid foot fungus proliferation.

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DANDELION HERBAL INFUSION LAUNCHED

Gold Leaf, one of the country's leading brands of tea and herbal infusion products, recently launched Dandelion Herbal Infusion, an alternative health drink that promotes the body's natural regenerative properties and washes away unhealthy substances and toxins. The new product is packed with the dandelion's all-natural nutrients and vitamins like A, B, C, D, iron and potassium. Shown presenting the product during a simple launch are (from left) Ephraim Young, vice president for marketing of Gilamar Enterprises, the exclusive Philippine distributor of Gold Leaf products, Gilbert Young Sr., president, Mary Go Young, vice president and Gilbert Young Jr., research and development manager. Dandelion Herbal Infusion is now available in leading supermarkets and groceries in Metro Manila. For dealership, call 716-0719.

PROPER HYGIENE SYMPOSIUM

During the recently concluded International Health and Hygiene Symposium held at Beijing, China, Procter and Gamble (P&G) officials led by vice president for the Great China Region James Wei and global marketing director Ted Keegan said that it is the global commitment of Safeguard to promote proper hygiene practices and vowed that awareness campaigns on proper hygiene habits will be implemented to lessen the spread of diseases in developing countries. The symposium focused on discussions on how common diseases such as parasitism, common colds, impetigo and diarrhea can be lessened if proper personal hygiene habits, such as frequent hand washing with Safeguard, are practiced. Shown is James Wei welcoming the hundreds of medical experts and renowned health-related authorities from the academe all over the world as they vouch on the need to practice proper hygiene with Safeguard as a simple and effective way to prevent common diseases.

Sales gain brings relief for retailers

NEW YORK—US retailers breathed a little easier last week as falling temperatures lifted sales of seasonal clothing, fueling hopes that the nation's chain stores may yet avert a dismal holiday season.

The sales increase brought some comfort to retailers concerned about a decline in the strength of consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of the nation's economic activity and has kept the economy afloat in recent months.

Sales at US chain stores rose 0.6 percent in the week ended Oct. 19 after a 0.9-percent decline in the preceding week, the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (BTM) and UBS Warburg said in a joint report.

During the first two weeks of October, sales grew 1.5 percent from the same period in September, Instinet Research said in its Redbook sales survey.

"It looks like things perked up a little bit," said Cary Leahey, senior US economist at Deutsche Bank Securities. "I wouldn't say they're strong but you still can't count Christmas out yet."

Stores in the suburbs of Baltimore and Washington have been adversely affected by fears of a sniper who has killed as many as nine people in the area in recent weeks, BTM and Redbook said. But barring a broader wave of copy-cat shootings, worries about the Washington sniper are unlikely to affect spending at the national level, analysts said.

Instead, Christmas shopping will depend on the result of a mental tug-of-war for US consumers.

Whether Americans spend the money they saved during this year's record wave of home mortgage refinancings or tighten their purse strings in the face of diminished job security (news—websites) and a weak economy could determine the direction of holiday retail spending, analysts said. *Reuters*

NO RECESSION SEEN YET

Leading US economic indicators fall

NEW YORK—September's faltering stock market and increasing unemployment claims dragged down a widely watched gauge of US economic prospects, a research group said Monday.

It was the fourth consecutive monthly decline, but economists downplayed the possibility that it portended a second recession in as many years.

The Conference Board reported that its Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell 0.2 percent, matching Wall Street expectations.

The leading index, which attempts to predict the strength of the economy about six months ahead, stood at 111.6 in September. It stood at 100 in 1996, its base year.

Stuart G. Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh, said the decline would "make some people nervous," but there was no real reason to conclude that the economy would go into a "double-dip" recession.

The index was affected mainly by the depressed stock market, which is not necessarily an accurate predictor of the economy, Hoffman said.

The economy shrank for the first three quarters of last year, meeting the measure of a recession, which is at least two straight quarters of decline.

After a strong showing at the beginning of this year, economic growth slowed in the second quarter to just 1.3 percent, raising fears of a second recession.

Since then, various measures have given contradicting snapshots of the economy, painting an overall picture of a weak and uncertain recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 215.84, or 2.6 percent, Monday at 8,538.24. The Nasdaq composite index rose 21.81, or 1.7 percent, to 1,309.67. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 15.33, or 1.7 percent, to 899.72. *AP*

Fed urges patience on jobs growth

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—Minneapolis Federal Reserve President Gary Stern on Monday counseled patience with the slow rate of jobs growth in the current US recovery and said economic growth should pick up next year.

The tone of his remarks was similar to those of the majority of Fed policymakers in recent weeks, suggesting no urgent need to cut interest rates again despite the tepid recovery from last year's recession.

"A little bit of patience here is probably appropriate," said Stern, referring to the labor market.

Stern, a voting member of the Fed's policy committee, likened the slow jobs growth in this recovery to the similar situation after the 1990-91 recession. Although it took time, solid jobs and economic growth did eventually follow the last recession, he said.

A meager 175,000 jobs have been added to US payrolls since April, and in September new jobs actually declined. Companies have been reluctant to hire workers till they are sure the recovery in demand is on a solid footing.

Stern said he would welcome more rapid gains in employment growth, but "I wouldn't exaggerate their absence just yet."

In a speech that closely followed remarks he made on Oct. 15, Stern stressed the resilience of the US economy over the longer term, and also said that he considered the chances of the US falling back into recession relatively slim. *Reuters*

Koizumi backs banking reform

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi threw his weight behind Japan's embattled financial chief on Wednesday, despite mounting political opposition to his plans for a radical bank cleanup.

Markets were left to wrestle with policy confusion a day after Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka shocked investors by delaying his keenly awaited reform blueprint, apparently after ruling politicians made their displeasure clear.

The delay cast fresh doubt on Koizumi's leadership ability only three weeks after he charged Takenaka with the task of digging Japan's banking system out from under under trillions of yen in bad debt.

Investors faced further anxiety after weeks of wondering whether Takenaka could push through radical reform, still a rarity in Japan despite a decade of stagnation.

Bank stocks tumbled and the yen jumped to 124.17 yen against the dollar from 125 yen as rumors swept the Tokyo market that Takenaka was about to be sacked. Adding to Koizumi's troubles, opposition parties were preparing a censure motion against Takenaka, an opposition source said.

But Koizumi told reporters that the bank reforms, which now look set to be announced later this month together with "safety net" measures to cushion the economic pain, were still on track. *Reuters*

Asian stocks, yen steady as US limits losses

SINGAPORE—Stocks eased in Asia on Wednesday after US shares dropped for the first time in four sessions, but the losses were modest as Wall Street held up better than expected in the face of technology earnings worries.

Even the Tokyo market and the yen held mostly steady, despite a setback to hopes Japan would tackle its bad bank loan problem.

Japan's Nikkei 225 average was down just 0.3 percent by midday, slashing an early loss of more than 2 percent, after ruling party politicians forced a delay to a report on the loan problems undermining the economy.

Most stock benchmarks in Asia moved by less than one percent, though Hong Kong showed a gain of 1.8 percent.

"US markets retreated overnight but the losses were not as big as expected," said Hyun Jong-won, an analyst at Good Morning Shinhan Securities in South Korea, where the index held within 0.5 percent of Tuesday's close. "So it is not likely to affect our market much today."

US stocks snapped a three-day streak of gains as dour outlooks from companies like chip maker Texas Instruments Inc. reined in enthusiasm over the market's turnaround in the past two weeks.

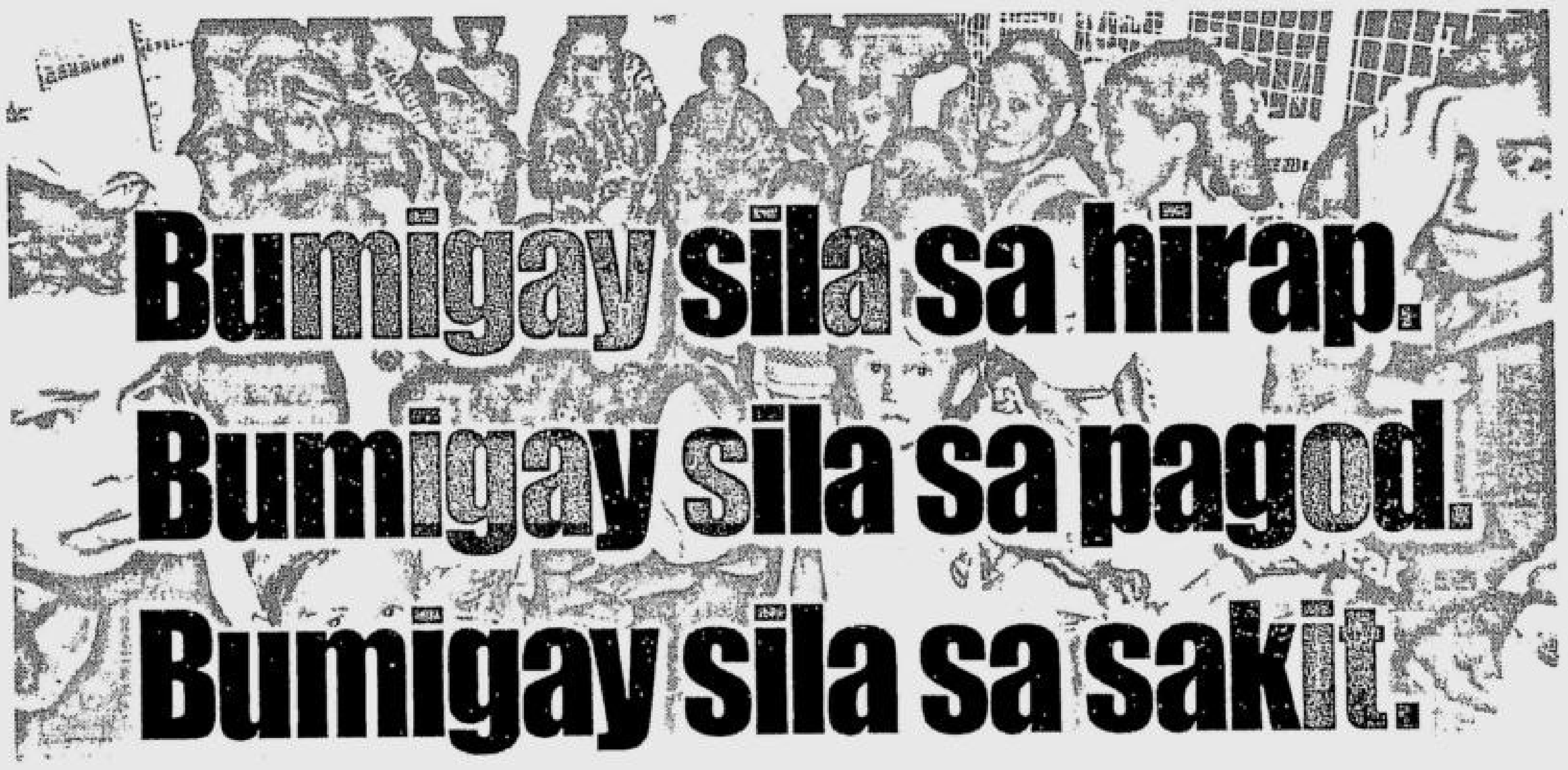
The Nasdaq Composite index dipped 1.29 percent to 1,292.80 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1.03 percent to 8,450.16. December Nasdaq 100 futures were off 1.3 percent in Asia. *Reuters*

Siemens invests in Swiss company

Siemens Mobile Acceleration (SMAC) announced today its investment in SVOX AG, the Swiss specialist in text-to-speech technology. In SVOX's current round of financing, Siemens Mobile Acceleration acted as the sole investor and will support SVOX's way to a successful market entry and a promising superior product portfolio.

Speech synthesis systems, often referred to as text-to-speech (TTS) systems, convert digital written texts into spoken language. In the past few years, technological advances have enabled the synthesized voice produced by a TTS engine to approach near-human quality, with a natural-sounding and intelligible flow of words, intonation and inflection. This improved quality allows applications such as e-mail reading or call-center support to be widely acceptable by end customers.

SVOX develops products for embedded and server-based applications such as mobile devices, automotive, consumer electronics, call centers and voice portals. The modular SVOX TTS engine covers the complete range of text-to-speech applications—from highly scalable server-based systems to the lowest footprint solutions. Languages and voices initially developed for one product line are automatically available on all SVOX TTS systems. This scalability, together with SVOX unique voice conversion technology, allows customers to brand their products with their own individual voice on a variety of platforms.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You may also send your cash/check donations (payable to Tabang Mindanaw) through any of the Task Force Members listed here.

Goods in Kind: Send to either GMA 7 Foundation, Inc. Attention: Ms. Menchie Silvestre at 928-4299 or 928-7021 to 24 loc 310/287; or ABS – CBN Foundation, Inc. Attention: Mr. Henry Paje at 411-0840/416-0387.

Task Force Members:

Assisi Development Foundation, Inc.; Ayala Foundation, Inc.; Philippine Daily Inquirer; ABS-CBN Foundation; AY Foundation, Inc.; GMA-7 Foundation, Inc.; League of Corporate Foundations, Inc.; Metrobank Foundation, Inc.; Office of Ms. Margie Moran-Floirendo; PISO for Unity, Peace and Progress Foundation, Inc.

For further inquiries, please call up the Secretariat. Attention: Exec. Coordinator Merlie "Mlet" B. Mendoza, c/o Assisi Development Foundation, Inc., Units 503-506 Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605 Philippines. Tel. Nos: 632-1001 to 03 DL: 636-5855 FaxNo.: 632-7844. Email: tabang@mindgate.net Website: www.tabangmindanaw.org

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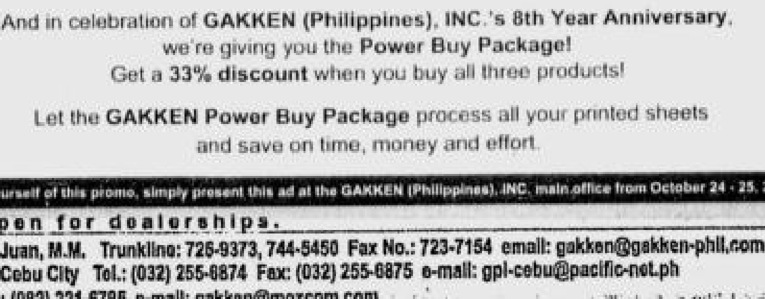

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PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

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Vermont Park Antipolo 239m² 2sty 5BR w/ bathtub attic 2aircon tel grge P5M 7801821 /5238481 L340/09165012454

SAN JUAN

★Ghills 900 7BR cor. P35M;
★850 4BR Spul 40M 723-2391

VARIED AREAS

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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1.4M C5 Nr The Fort
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MANDALUYONG

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

Fernandina 88 100sqm 5M 3br 2tb FF • 0917-2429078

SCT CASTOR NR MORATO 3br 3tb 2cg 3.5M 6873372

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SAN JUAN

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★Studio P2M DBO 723-2391

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LOT

MANILA

Castanos Sampaloc 330m² T-9356342/0917-8122984

MARIKINA

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QUEZON CITY

448m² L32 Gonzales St. Xavierville Ruth 3245167 /2547001/09195808549

Corinthian Lots 863 and 923sqm Tx 0917-4149898

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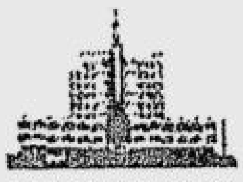

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QUEZON CITY

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MANDALUYONG

5BR 2TB w/ Dirty Kit. Grg Terrace 24 Wtr Call 532-4742

PASIG

LA 4001sqm East Grnhills 4BR 4TB Pool 0917-4149898

QUEZON CITY

2-storey 3 1/2 bedrooms 2baths with small patio and garage at 51-D Matahimik St. Teachers Village.
Contact EDNA / RUTH
Tel. 681-6054, 681-9929

CAPITOL EST 3flr 3br3tb grge w/qtr renovated 4279953 0919-4235801/0916-4418561

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SAN JUAN

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MANILA

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QUEZON CITY

1BR Ateneo/Eastwd 6815834

1BR 5.5T/2BR 7T 9267383

2T 2rm West Frview6459934

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Proj8 New P7.5T grge 9292267

FOR LEASE

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

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L300 T7411356

MB100 Hiace Pregio 2973807

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STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

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Van 4 Rent 8254058 8261045

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 0990215

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

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2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

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2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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PROMO GIRL 5276418

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Regional Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2002-11D

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 12, 2002; 2:00 PM

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
A1 1 UNIT	LONG WAVE LENGTH INFRA DIGITIZER	3D11-2002-164
A2 2 SETS	AIR BREAK SWITCH	A1-02-228
A3 3 SETS	SURGE ARRESTER	3ASS-02-126

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) A1 - November 04, 2002; 10:00 AM - at SLT Bidding Room
2) A2 - November 04, 2002; 11:00 AM - at SLT Bidding Room
3) A3 - November 04, 2002; 2:00 PM - at SLT Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting October 25, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI-Oct. 24, 2002)

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

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DIRECT HIRING OFC STAFF
Various Positions 18-45
Coll Grad/U-grad w/ w/o exp
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★Ofc Staf 20-40yrs★
8396763 Anette urgent

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★
Start asap 4345803 Sofia

HRD STAFF 09164621729 RJAY

HRD Staff 09165483767 Ms Ay

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URGENTLY NEED SALES LADY / DEALERS / AGENTS FOR KOREAN GINSENG & KOREAN PRODUCTS & IMPORTED FOOD HEALTH & DIET SUPPLEMENT Fr. USA Look for Gilda Bondoc 8945702 / 0919-5550584 10am to 7pm HURRY UP!!! Good Job, Good Income!!!

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OFC STAFF 0918-5175148 Alex

OFC Staff 09202550298 Roda

OFC/MKTG STAFF HI PAY START AGAD 4217569 PETH

Office staff 09186532375Molly

OPTOMETRIST
MCU/CEU Grad. w/experience
899-2044 • 0916-5362919

Wanted DENTISTS 9162923

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that estate of the late spouses VALENTE M. VILLANUEVA, SR. & LUCILA M. VILLANUEVA, has been extra-judicially settled w/ absolute sale, as per Doc.#110, Page 23, Book No. XI, Series of 2002 of Notary Public for Paranaque City Atty. Jose E. Marigundon, CPA.
(PDI-Oct 17 24 & 31 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late APOLONIA M. REYES was settled extrajudicially by the heirs as per Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement and Adjudication per Doc. No. 630, Page No. 45, Book II, Series of 2002 before Atty Arturo M. Marin, Notary Public, Quezon City
(PDI-Oct.24,31&Nov.7,2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
(Never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star in the Sea help and show me, herein, you are my mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you, from bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh show me, herein you are mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Holy Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, light all roads that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life, You are with me. I want, in this short prayer, to thank You for all things as You confirm once again that I never wanted to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank You for Your mercy towards me. The person must say this prayer for three consecutive days. After three days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Hokel Subic Corporation

#40 Golden Future St. Cor. Aim High Ave. SBIP, SBFZ
is in need of the following positions

MOLDING TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR: Male, 26 to 35 years old, must be a licensed Mechanical Engineer. At least 5 years work experience in the same field, preferably can speak Mandarin or Fokien. Willing to work in Subic, and with good background in molding.

INJECTION TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR: Male, 25 to 35 years old, must have 3 to 5 years working experience, can speak Mandarin or Fokien, with a good background in all kinds of machine, hardworking and willing to work in Subic.

MIS SUPERVISOR: Male/Female, 25 to 30 years old, a graduate of Computer Engineering/ Programming or any other 4-year computer course. Knowledge in computer troubleshooting, computer Designing and programming. Can speak Mandarin or Fokien, and willing to work in Subic.

ASST. PLANT MANAGER: Male/ Female, 25 to 40 years old, Industrial / Mechanical Engineer preferably graduate form any prestigious University/ College in Manila, must have at least 5 years working experience in a manufacturing firm, with good communication skills, career-oriented and with a good moral character and willing to work in Subic.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

BEST TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES, INC. Lost Official Receipts Nos. **62701-62750** on October 22, 2002.

Any transactions with the use of the above lost receipts effective October 22, 2002 shall not be honored and is considered null and void by BEST Telephone Directories, Inc.

The League of Cities of the Philippines

An association of 115 cities in the Philippines
is currently implementing the
Upscaling Poverty-Focused City Development Strategy (CDS2) Project
with technical and funding assistance from the
World Bank/UN-Habitat/Cities Alliance

Invites CONSULTANCY PROPOSALS for the League of Cities of the Philippines Capacity Development Component of the CDS2 Project, to prepare:

1. A diagnostic analysis and report on the organizational review and training needs assessment of the League of Cities of the Philippines
2. Proposed Organizational Chart with corresponding staffing; and
3. Proposed operational systems and procedures

The Terms of Reference (TOR) may be secured from the LCP Office or downloaded from www.cdsea.org

Please submit expressions of interest to LCP at Suite 1209 Cityland 10 Tower II, Corner Valero and De la Costa Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City ***not later than Novemer 8, 2002*** - personally or through Fax No. (02) 892-6681 or e-mail to lcp@graphixweb.com

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Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section V R.A. Act. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **ENGLAND C. GO** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **ENGLATERA** to **ENGLAND** in the birth certificate of **ENGLATERA CUBIL GO** who was born on 03 September 1948 at **MARIHATAG, LIANGA, SURIGAO DEL SUR** and whose parents are **PIO POLILIO GO** and **MACARIA SARCEDA CUBIL**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 01 November 2002.

(Sgd.) **LEO G. WABE**
City Civil Registrar

(PDI--Oct. 24 & 31, 2002)

CGFNS & U.S. LICENSED NURSES

Do you want to avail of an Immigrant Visa Petition for Free?

WE DARE YOU...
COME AND COMPARE

WHEN: October 26-27, 2002
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Kanlaon Function Room
Century Park Hotel
599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street
1004 Malate, Manila

The **Directors of Rahway Hospital, Rahway** in New Jersey, U.S.A. are coming to interview NURSES in all specialty areas.

NURSES!

Don't Deal Yourself a Joker When you can Have an Ace

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- Free processing of Immigrant Visa Petition
- Free Agency Fee
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- 2-3 months Free Housing

A ♦ BETTER Benefits Package

- Paid Vacation/ Holiday
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- Free TOEFL
- Free TSE

A ♥ The BEST

- USD $22.50/hr. min. salary plus hospital experience
- Excellent Benefits and Incentives
- Outstanding Working Condition

"NO SALARY DEDUCTION, ALL FEES PAID BY THE HOSPITAL"

Ms. Amelia J. Olegario from New Jersey will be on hand to assist the Hospital Director

For more information: Please contact MS. Elsie T. Dela Cura of EA Int'l. Placement, Rm. 203-204 Aurora Plaza Bldg., J. Bocobo Cor. Arquiza Sts., Ermita, Manila. Tel. Nos. 526-6431, 526-4642, 525-8756. EA Branch Office in Bacolod City Tel. Nos. 034-4338971, 034-4343009 & EA Branch Office in Davao Tel. No. 082-2250399.

Please bring:

Typewritten Resumé and Original Documents (CGFNS Certificate, TOEFL, TSE, ICHP) College Diploma, High School Diploma, Birth Certificate, Marriage Contract if married, Transcript of Records, Related Learning Experience, PRC Certificate, Board Rating, PRC ID., 6 pcs. Passport size picture and Employment Certificate with area of exposure.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
PROCUREMENT SERVICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILTY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PASSENGER ELEVATOR FOR THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P 10,861,824.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held on **November 8, 2002, 9:30 A.M.** at the **PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **October 24, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **November 26, 2002 at 9:30 P.M.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. **561-60-98** or **563-94-02.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI - Oct 24 & 31, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 * 372-50-42
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 * 372-50-61

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY & TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the **"Digital Copier"** not later than 2:00 p.m. on **November 06, 2002.**

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: Photo copies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (Original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI--Oct. 24, 2002)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA)
Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 551-3443/ 891-6423, Telefax 551-9587
www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority ("THE OWNER") invites all interested bidders to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Design, Supply, and Installation, including Test and Commissioning of two (2) 25 MVA Substation Expansion Projects** for the Bataan and Mactan Economic Zones. **The Approved Budget for the Contract is Php 75.333 M.**
2. Bidding Documents may be secured by interested bidders starting **28 October** to **05 November 2002** at the ***Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration, 3rd Floor Almeda Building Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St. Pasay City,*** upon registration and payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).
3. To be registered with the OWNER, Interested Bidders must submit the following documents (in case of photocopied documents, the original must be presented):
    - a) DTI Registration of Business Name of SEC Registration Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines:
    - b) Mayor's permit/ municipal license;
    - c) Taxpayer's Identification Number;
    - d) Statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP);
    - e) Valid PCAB License; and
    - f) Notarized affidavit certifying under oath that each documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.
4. Submission of eligibility documents in four (4) copies must be received in sealed envelopes on or before 3:00 p.m. of 11 November 2002 and addressed to *The Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration, 3rd Floor Almeda Building Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St. Pasay City.*
5. A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on 20 November 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the *6th Floor Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St. Pasay City.*
6. *The submission of bids will be on or before 12:00 noon of 25 November, 2002.* All bids submitted shall be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidders' representatives at 2:00 p.m. of the same date. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids shall be accompanied by a bid security to be posted in favor of the OWNER and shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligations whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder any expense or loss that it may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government The provision of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply to this bidding process.

(Sgd.) CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 24 & 31, 2002)

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Luzon

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na sulit pa!

[illegible]

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Visayas

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Fax (033) 509-0190
Kalibo
Dra. Bease Candelario
R. B. Printing
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. No. (036) 262-4155/268-5200
Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
Komiks Magazines and Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building, Fuentes Drive
Roxas City
Tel. No (036) 621-5586/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Dona Rosano Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
c/o In-hand Negros Inc.
C L. Montelibano Drive
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
(034) 433-3628/712-7021
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escano Street, Cebu City
Tel No. (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Mag and Gen. Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel No. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Rene's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. No. (035) 225-4320
Iloilo
Eddie-Mar News and Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. (033) 337-3120

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

National Power Corporation
Generation Company 1

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The NPC GENCO-1 Bids and Award Committee (BAC) is inviting Contractors to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and to bid for **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CABLES, SWITCHES AND DESKTOP PC FOR THE UPGRADING AND REHABILITATION OF LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN) IN NPC GENCO-1 MAIN OFFICE AT PORT AREA, MANILA, (ES 02-02)**

Application for prequalification/eligibility is open to all Filipino Contracting Firms with valid license and/or business permit. Prospective Bidders must be able to prove his Experience, Equipment Capability as well as his Financial Capacity to perform the services called for.

Eligibility Forms and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance to interested applicants, from **October 24 to November 07, 2002** (Monday to Friday at 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.), at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), 3rd floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's valid business license and/or certificate SEC/DTI, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Eight Hundred Pesos (P 800.00) per copy.

The Approved Budget of the Contract to be Bid is P 4,708,990.00 and shall be completed within 30 Calendar Days

For purpose of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed.

ACTIVITIES	
• Pre-bid Conference	November 11, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.
• Submission of Eligibility Form/Documents And Opening of Bids	November 26, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

Both activities shall be held at the Conference Room, 4th floor NPC Bldg., Port Area, Manila

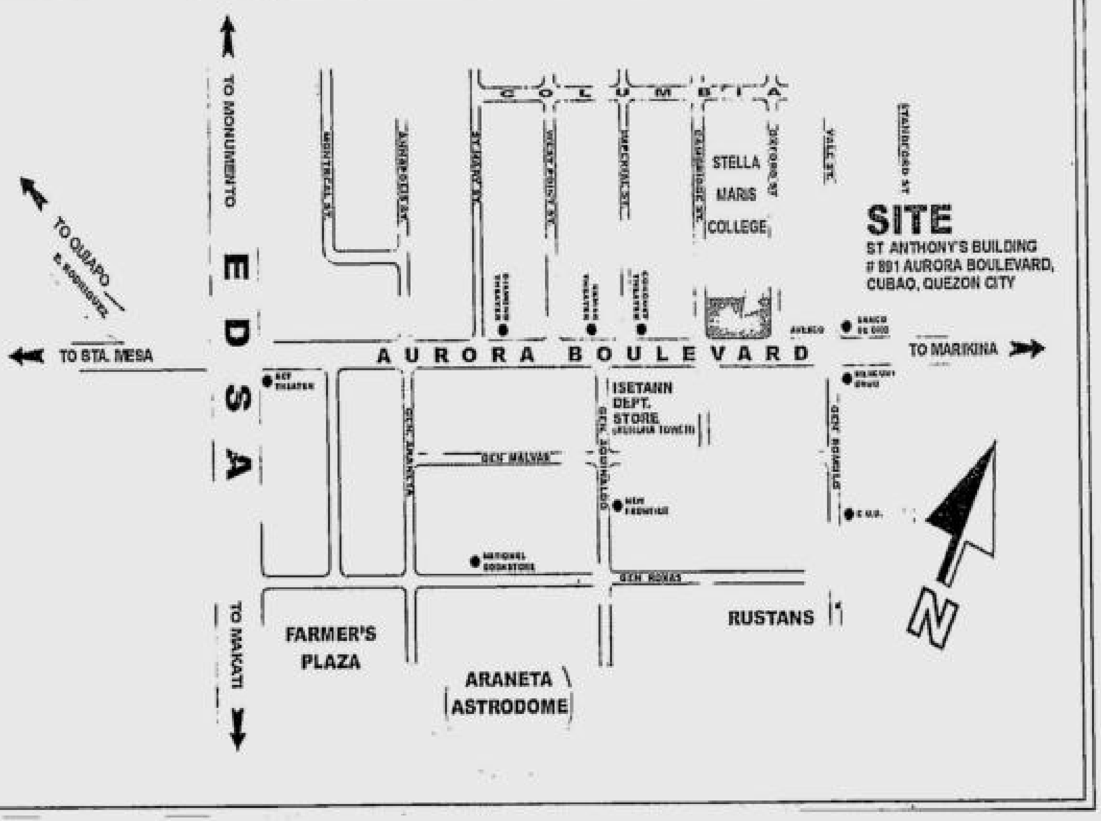
NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason; waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the Bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the Bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) LORNA T. DY
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

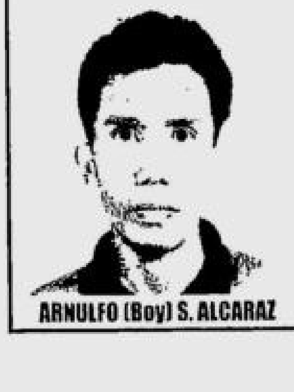
(PDI--Oct. 24 & 30, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



ARNULFO (Boy) S. ALCARAZ

This is to inform the general public that MR. ARNULFO (Boy) S. ALCARAZ of 7215 San Mateo St., Brgy. Olympia, Makati City, whose picture appears at left is no longer connected with Electro Word-Processing Systems, Inc. effective October 10, 2002. Any and all transactions entered into by him for and/or behalf of the company after said date shall not be honored.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, 1632
Tel. Number 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
845-2341 or 845-2342
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director

On the First Anniversary of the Entry into Eternal Life of

AURELIO HENSON DIZON

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches on October 24, 2002

San Roque Parish, Manila	7:00 AM
Espiritu Santo Church, Manila	6:00 AM
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Makati	6:00 AM
Sta. Cruz Church, Manila	8:00 AM
Mt. Carmel Shrine, Q.C.	7:00 AM
Santisimo Rosario Parish, Manila	7:30 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Q.C.	7:00 AM
San Agustin Church, Manila	7:00 AM
Manila Cathedral, Manila	7:30 AM
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Sacred Heart Parish, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Lourdes Parish Church, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Christ the King Church, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Sta. Rita Parish, Q.C.	6:00 PM

Please continue praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

In Christ all shall be made alive...
Corinthian 15:22

Lim Yu (Rosa Tan)

Now peacefully joined her Creator on 20 October 2002 at the age of 75.

Her bereaved children **Lucy**, **Lily**, **Henry** and **Sonia**, **Stephen** and **Nancy**, **Dante** and **Vicky** and grandchildren request the pious readers to kindly pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, old bldg. Chapel B.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 26, 2002, at the Chinese Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

FELIZA "Piling" TAMARGO VILORIA

of Buguey, Cagayan

Peacefully joined our Creator on October 22, 2002 at the age of 80.

Her remains lie in state at St. Martin Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 26, 2002, 7:00 AM at the La Loma Cemetery.

In Loving Memory
on the
10th Death Anniversary
of

ATTY. GREGORIO R. CASTILLO

of
Buhi, Camarines Sur

Founding Partner of
CASTILLO LAMAN TAN PANTALEON &
SAN JOSE LAW OFFICES

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches on October 24, 2002:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish
Forbes Park, Makati .... 12:15 p.m.
Parish of St. James The Great
Ayala Alabang .... 6:30 p.m.
St. Jerome Amiliani
Alabang .... 6:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish
Pasay Road, Makati .... 6:00 p.m.
Baclaran Redemptorist Church
Baclaran, Pasay City .... 6:45 a.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish Church
BF Homes .... 6:45 a.m.
St. Peter's Parish Church
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City .... 12:00 p.m.
Parish Church of the Ressurrection
BF Homes, Parañaque .... 6:30 p.m.

The Family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

PETER A. CU

A family-oriented man, beloved husband to **SUSAN**, caring father to **PHILIP**, **SANDRA** and **SHERYL**, son of **PRIMITIVA GUAN**, brother to **ALEX**, **JOHNY**, **ESTER**, **BETTY** and **SUSANA**, friend to many whose lives he has touched has joined the Lord on Sunday, 20th of October 2002, at the age of 55.

He lies in state at the **Love Chapel of the Arlington Memorial Chapels** 12 G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.
Mass will be offered on Saturday, 26th of October 2002, 8:00 a.m. Cremation service will follow at the **La Funeraria Paz Q.C.** at 10:00 a.m. He will permanently rest at **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish.**

"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delight at your right hand forever..."
Psalm 16:11

In Loving Memory
of

MELCHOR E. DE GUZMAN, SR.

on the Seventh Anniversary of his rebirth to eternal life on October 24, 2002.

His wife Maribel; his children Greg, Mitos and Melchor Jr. request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, October 24, 2002.

- **Christ the King Parish**, *Greenmeadows, Q.C.* 6:00 AM
- **Parish of Saint Therese** 6:00 AM
  Dagupan City, Pangasinan
- **St. Joseph Cathedral Parish** 5:45 AM
  Alaminos City, Pangasinan
- **Carmelite Monastery**, *Burgos, Pangasinan* 6:30 AM
  St. Joseph Parish Church 6:00 AM
  Aguilar, Pangasinan
- **St. James the Great Parish Church** 6:00 AM
  Bolinao, Pangasinan
- **San Andres Parish Church** 6:00 AM
  Masinloc, Zambales

In Loving Memory
on the Second Death Anniversary of

ARCH'T. EDUARDO "NED" GONZALEZ RAMOS

(29 July 1948 - 24 October 2000)

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches on October 24, 2002.

Sanctuario de San Antonio .... 6:00 PM
Mc Kinley Road Forbes Park, Makati City
Sanctuario de San Jose .... 6:15 PM
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Mary the Queen Parish .... 6:00 PM
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy .... 6:00 AM
Maysilo Street, Mandaluyong City
San Roque Parish Church .... 6:00 AM
Barangka, Mandaluyong City
Parish of San Felipe Neri .... 6:00 PM
Mandaluyong City

Request the pious readers, relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

With all our love,
MARITA, JET, BILLIE, and Family

DIOSDADO T. BAUTISTA

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 22, 2002 at the age of 59.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Cremation will be on Saturday, October 26, 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE — **897-8808 loc. 514, 516, 899-4425, 897-2535, 897-8425 (Telefax)**
CUBAO — **912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)**
MAKATI — **892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370**
KALAW — **528-0213, 527-3342**
MEGAMALL — **635-0219, 635-0220**

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City; Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLOREŞCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
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Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291
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Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
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EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783; (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila;
Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

"My soul finds rest in God alone; from Him comes my salvation."
Psalm 62:2

MANUEL GUTIERREZ ABELLO

Husband of **Maria Elsa Ricafort**; father of **Emil** and **Crickette**, **Manolito**, **Tony** and **Miri**, **Chato** (†), **Mariles** and **Mike**, **Carlitos**, and **Angeline**; grandfather of **Michelle**, **Marco**, **Sofia**, **Rocio** and **Miguel**; brother of **Emilio Junior**, **Sonny** (†), **Titos** and **Buddy**, and their spouses and all relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla del Señor,
Santuario de San Antonio,
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

There will be a Funeral Mass on Saturday, October 26, 2002 at 9:00 in the morning at Santuario de San Antonio Church.

ACCRA

THE PARTNERS AND STAFF
OF
ABELLO CONCEPCION REGALA & CRUZ LAW OFFICES
(ACCRALAW®)
announce with deep sorrow the demise of our beloved
Founding and Senior Partner

MANUEL G. ABELLO

who died in the Grace of our Lord on the 22nd day of October at the age of 68.

We, together with his bereaved family, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park.

Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, 26th of October 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio.

"Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 8:38-39)

The further we go into this century, the more serious the role the internet plays in business. As geographical boundaries blur and a global community is formed in the internet, it is becoming increasingly important for corporations to be present in the cyber world. More and more companies are discovering that PLDT DSL is precisely that all-important vehicle that allows them to ride the internet wave and flow with what is current.

WebFactorial!
Web Development to a Higher Power

WEBFACTORIAL CORPORATION (www.webfactorial.com) is a web services provider that specializes in website development. Professional services firms from different parts of the world tap into this company for help in creating their clients' websites on an outsourced basis.

Steve Walden, WebFactorial's President and CEO, likens the company to one of those factories in the Philippines that do electronic assembly, "Except that we send the raw materials and finished goods back and forth over the internet."

This is why a fast and dependable internet service provider is crucial to WebFactorial. This is how important PLDT DSL is to them.

One of the challenges that WebFactorial faces is to constantly prove itself especially to European and American companies who may be a bit distrustful about sending work to the Philippines, considering all that they read in their newspapers. "So our challenge is to get the first project with them," Mr. Walden says. "And when we can, we receive all of these files flawlessly with no problem and no delay. Then, we can get off to a good start."

Given the tight deadlines and the huge files sent through the internet, the company has come to depend upon PLDT DSL; it can't afford delays and glitches. Mr. Walden stresses, "We ship our products via PLDT DSL. So we have to get there on time or we'll lose the business."

But no worries, WebFactorial's PLDT DSL connection delivers speed and reliability to Steve and his staff so they can deliver impressive work at impressive speed. "When we can get client work turned around overnight, it just blows them away," Steve enthuses.

PLDT DSL is proud to be part of WebFactorial's success. "We signed up when the service first became available and we've been very happy ever since," Steve emphasizes.

WEBFACTORIAL President and CEO
Steve Walden

DSL
Serious about Business

Net@Pi@
Internet Café

NETOPIA • "It's like having a bigger library than the most expensive schools combined," is how Axel Kornerup, Founder and Chief Technology Officer of the Netopia chain of internet cafés, describes the advantages of having PLDT DSL in his cafés. Netopia has 40 internet utopias serviced by PLDT DSL throughout Metro Manila and Cebu that provides high-speed internet services.

Netopia opened its first café in 1997. It acquired PLDT DSL in the year 2000 and has seen how it has brought to its customers' fingertips information and technology that is cheaper, faster and more reliable. "It gives them value for money," Axel says. With 20 pesos, Netopia gives its customers lightning speed access to any information from anywhere in the world—thanks to PLDT DSL, which is amazingly reasonably-priced considering that it is 10 times faster and more reliable than any dial-up access. "It has raised the bar of the internet business," Axel says.

Axel is proud of how Netopia cafés contribute to the lives of his customers as well as his employees. He says it "empowers people by giving them access to information," and explains how sometimes new members of his staff may come into the company not all that well-versed in computers, but in the end find doors that open into a world that transforms them. His customers are happy with the faster and cheaper service they get. One "success story" he loves to talk about is how a Lola came in wanting to email her apo in Saudi but did not know how to do it. A technician did it for her right in front of her excited eyes.

With common access to computers, PLDT DSL addresses the digital divide. Many may not understand how the internet works, but when they come into a Netopia café, and are able to email a friend who is thousands of miles away, learn information he may never find in books or magazines, talk virtually face-to-face with a relative abroad, they understand and know that they can depend on the service the café gives them—something made possible through Netopia's successful tie-up with PLDT DSL.

NETOPIA's Founder and
Chief Technology Officer, Axel Kornerup

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Tastes LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Holy bones, or food for souls

THE JOYFUL COOK

Felice Prudente Sta.Maria

THE JOYFUL Cook was thumbing through her photo album over a cup of healthy, non-fattening, organic green tea. There were pictures of a visit with her husband, Andy, to Teotihoacan, the ancient, pyramid-like Aztec temple located near Mexico City. She remembered it had been an exhausting climb. Getting back down was a challenge. Each step was extremely narrow—even a size 4-½ lady's foot had to walk sideways. It was a wonder how the ancient priests in their tall, feathered headgear managed to make it up and down sans a handrail without plummeting into the believers below.

Many human sacrifices took place in the Mexican temple.

HOLY/ P.C2

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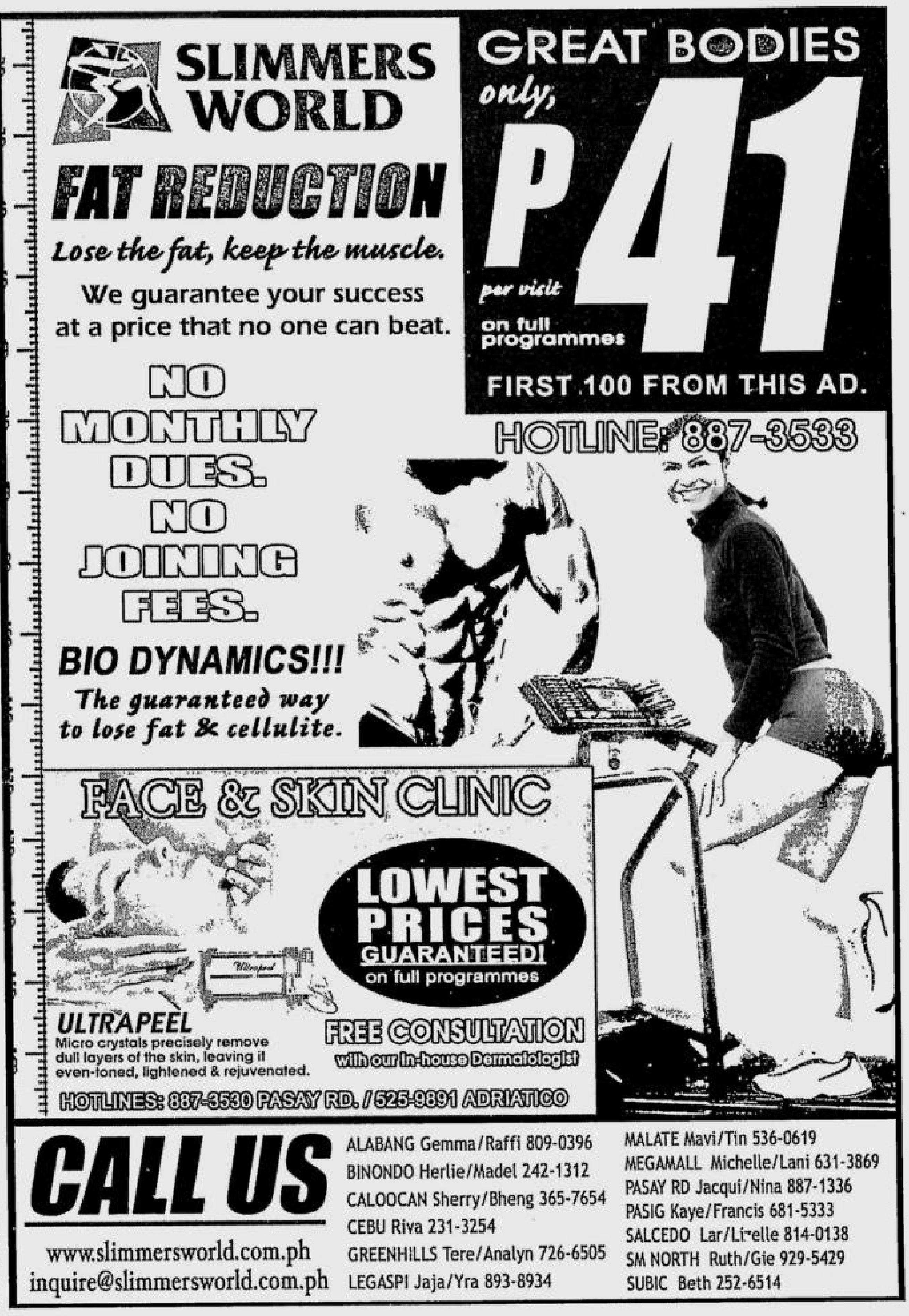

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Holy bones, or food for souls

From page C1

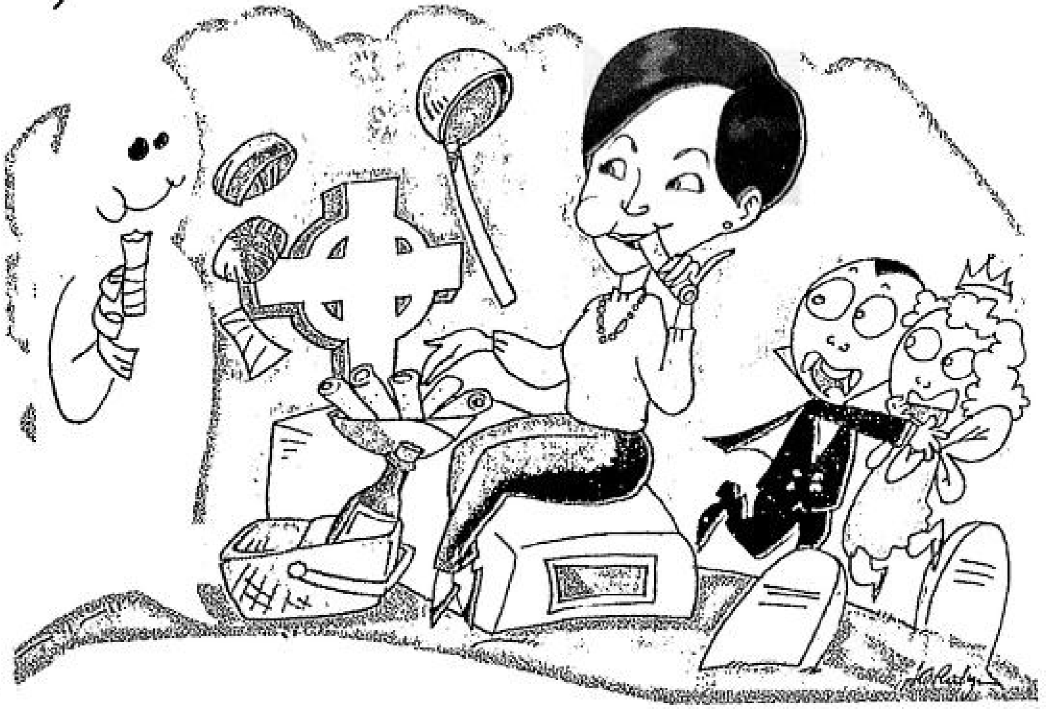


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The accounts would send any stomach curdling. The Christian belief in Jesus Christ providing the last and ultimate sacrifice replaced the practice and belief.

Celebrating souls

In Mexico, one of the most colorful and popular celebrations is Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). It is held every Nov. 2. It is actually the Catholic All Souls' Day. Dia de los Muertos reaches back to Mictecacihuatl, the Aztec's Lady of the Dead, whose month fell around July or August. On her feast, food and drink were offered to supply the departed on their journey to the afterlife.

The American counterpart to that celebration is Halloween on Oct. 31. Children no longer dress only as ghouls to celebrate the hallowed eve of All Saints' Day, Nov. 1. In Manhattan's Greenwich Village, adults, whether artists or not, don costumes and risk B-movie ratings despite the fall chill.

"Both countries celebrate death and the spirit world with candy, Sandok," she said. "In Mexico, children chomp on palm-size skulls made of granulated sugar. They are decorated in many colors and complement décor with *calaveras*, images of skeletons wearing feathered hats and bandoliers of bullets popularized by artist Jose Guadalupe Posada in the late 1800s.

"Similarly, in the US children collect baskets and buckets full of candies, caramelized apples and cookies," TJC added.

Native Halloween

"Halloween has certainly caught on in Metro Manila with the help of shopping malls and international greeting card companies," Saint Sandok noted. "It used to be only a few enclaves with American children that celebrated in the Philippines.

"But we did not have to import Halloween. The Tagalog equivalent is Nangangaluwa, also known as Kalag-kalag in Ilonggo. *Kaluluwa* and *kalag* mean soul. On Nov. 1, young bachelors and pre-teens pretend they are mischievous and hungry souls. Around Batangas and Pampanga during your grandmother's childhood, the young ones went around singing old tunes, identifying them as souls on the prowl, warning that if there were no treats they could take anything edible on one's premises. It used to be a day for chicken snatching, but all in good fun. No one denied young men their squawking trophies.

"In Guimaras, barrio folk still prepare *guinataan, ibus, biko* and *but-ong* to share with friends and relations returning home after dusk from a whole day's vigil at the parish cemetery," Sandok continued. "*But-ong* looks somewhat like a Mexican tamale or a Chinese *maching*. Wrapped in banana leaves, it is made from glutinous rice and coconut milk flavored lightly with salt, and is boiled till ready to eat in coconut-milk-infused water," he added, making TJC hungry.

Bone power

"I know, Sandok, I will make some Holy Bones for us to munch on," TJC said. "There is a recipe from a Spanish cookbook we can use." She fired up the oven.

Huesos de santos, TJC's Holy Bones, were a common confection associated with Granada, Spain and eaten in Old Manila. During the 1920s, "bones of saints" were usually advertised every late October up to early November by La Campana, a small hotel and restaurant built on Escolta in the Belle Epoch style. After a fire razed its original premises, the business moved to nearby Rizal Avenue. Each lemon-iced, almond-flavored delicacy resembled the cross section of a bone. Cardinal Newman once explained that bones of saints retain a part of the holy person's virtue. That is why different religions, including Roman Catholicism, have reliquaries at holy shrines. Newman added that a saint's bones could cure spiritual and even physical ailments.

Eating *huesos de santos* and other November sweets are a folksy, symbolic eating of the holy ones. Of course, the most important to Christians is communion, where believers partake of Christ's blood and body at Mass.

Grave Grub

Mexicans and Filipinos alike spend the fiesta cooking the favorite dishes of their departed relations. Like the French, Germans and Italians, Filipinos believe that ancestors return from the other dimension during the festivities in their memory. In Leyte *basi* wine, hard-boiled eggs and *suman* (rice cakes wrapped in banana leaves) are left atop tombs. Europeans leave "soul cakes." Belgians believed that for every soul cake eaten, Purgatory's population decreased by one and Heaven got another resident. Mexicans call their offering *pan de muerto*, although in Alicante, Spain, "bread of the dead" appears only at Lent to commemorate Christ's death.

TJC was getting carried away as usual. Not only did she make a batch of Holy Bones. She could not resist deep frying *bunuelos de viento*, another Spanish addition to Philippine cuisine formerly associated with November.

"Fill them with cream," said Saint Sandok. "I remember that's how La Campana served them. Whatever be the condition of one's soul, there is always a reminder of the will to do good coming from the kitchen."

Next: ***The medieval connection in a favorite Filipino dish***

'Spooktacular' treats for families

DINING OUT

SBARRO is giving away special loot bags to all kids who visit the restaurant located at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, Glorietta 2 in Ayala, Robinsons Place Manila and Festival Mall in Alabang on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Special gifts await kids who will come in special attire or Halloween costumes.

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant gives children Halloween treats they should not miss. On Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, every order of Burgoo's kiddie meal will entitle all kids to a free face painting by an artist. Kids can select from a design of their choice, from cartoon characters to their favorite things or objects, etc. Likewise, Burgoo has prepared special loot bags for all kids to take out. Also, kids who come in any Halloween attire or costume will automatically get a special gift. Visit Burgoo at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, QC; 2/L The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong; and 3/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 927-7424 or 898-1815 to 18.

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL offers a long Halloween weekend holiday from Oct. 31 to Nov. 3. Avail of the hotel's Mabuhay Take 2 Package. Get to stay in a deluxe room (single or double occupancy) with buffet breakfast at the Coffee Shop and get the second room or next night free. This package is for local and foreign residents with alien certificates. Call 811-6888 local 3700.

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO has prepared fantastic treats and surprises for all checked-in guests and diners on Halloween weekend. Dusit Hotel Nikko and sponsors like Tower Records, Getz Bros. and others will be giving away freebies kids and adults will surely cherish. What's more, grownup guests will be given complimentary entry pass to the Halloween Party Fever at the Paulaner Brauhaus German Restaurant, with live entertainment from Arthur Manuntag and the Next Level Band on the night of Oct. 31. Call 867-3333 local 3131-3134, 819-2559, fax to 867-3888/893-2479, or e-mail at salesprmnl@dusit.com.

THE SULÔ HOTEL presents "Happy Halloween!" until Oct. 29. Travel the Trail of Terror and visit and dine-in at any of the hotel outlets. A masquerade on Oct. 29 is in store for the patrons. Witness the annual staff parade with their colorful costumes and indigenous fashion designs hotel-wide at 8 p.m. Take part in the celebration and win special prizes from San Miguel Light, Coca-Cola Light and Ban Kee Trading Inc. Call 924-5051 to 71. The Sulô Hotel is located on Matalino Road, Diliman, QC.

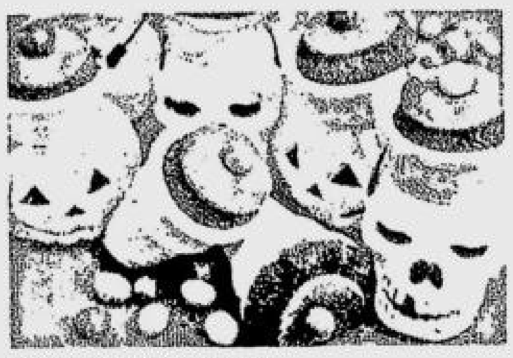
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA presents Sesame Street's Elmo, Count von Count and Cookie Monster. The popular multimedia mascots are in town for a series of special appearances, including Makati Shangri-La's Halloween Kiddie Party on Oct. 27 at the Rizal Ballroom. Activities include a separate adult and children's buffet spread, parlor games, a magic show, storytelling and a Best in Halloween Costume contest. The party culminates with the traditional Trick or Treat in selected areas of the hotel. Call 840-0884/913-8888 local 7588/7599.

Make your Halloween menu more wacky

From page C4

peppers in ¼ c Dari Creme. Add spaghetti sauce and cooked rice. Mix well and set aside. Season beef sukiyaki with salt and pepper and fly in the remaining Dari Creme until cook. Set aside.

Heat both sides of the flour tortilla in an un-greased frying pan. To assemble; put rice mixture in the middle of the flour tortilla. Place some beef sukiyaki on top. Drizzle with Cheezee Spread and roll like *lumpia*. Makes 10-12 servings.



CHOCOLATE Cone Cakes

Chocolate Cone Cakes

- 2½ c all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1½ tsp baking soda
- ¾ tsp salt
- 2/3 c milk
- 1 c cocoa powder, sifted
- 1 c Bakers Best
- 2½ c sugar
- 4 pc eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 36 pc ice cream cone with flat bottom
- 36 pc chocolate coins
- Colored chocolate candies

Preheat oven to 325°F. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cocoa powder. Set aside. In a cup, combine water, milk and vanilla. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy then add egg one at a time, beating well after each addition. Then alternately add the flour mixture and water mixture.

Stand the ice cream cones in a 2" deep baking pan. Fill ¾ of the cone with chocolate mixture. Bake for 25 minutes or until the cake is firm. Put the chocolate coin on top of each cone and put back in the oven for 1 minute. Take out from the oven then place one colored chocolate on top of each cone cake while still hot. Makes 36 pieces.

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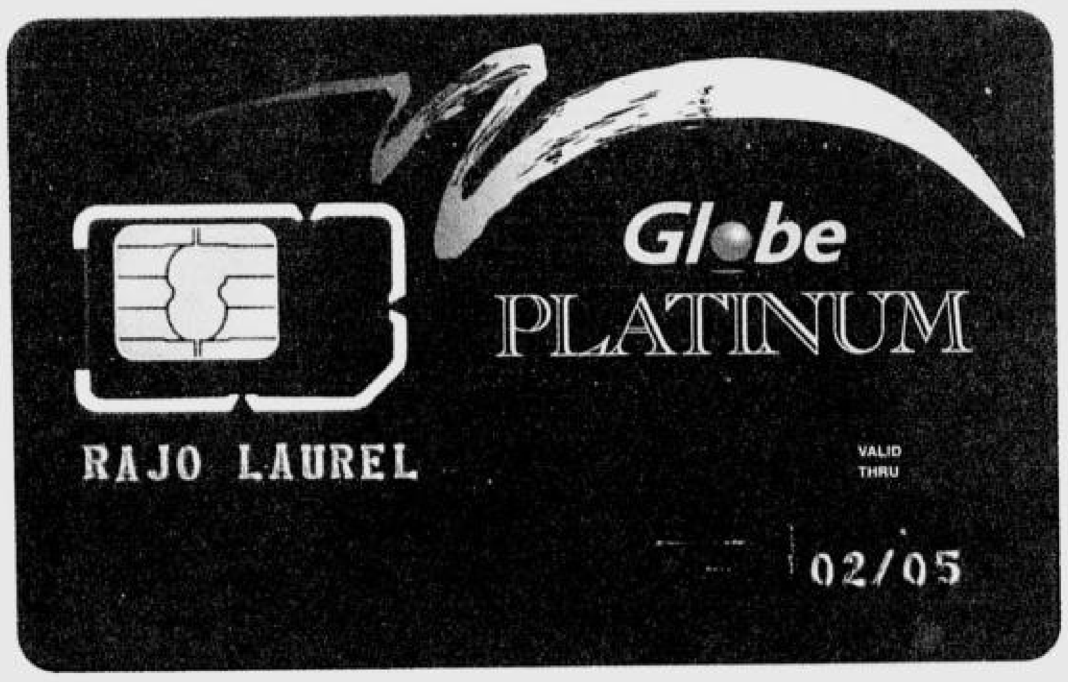

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MONSTER Pizza

SQUASH Cream Soup

BEEF Jambalaya Wrap

Make your Halloween menu more wacky

THE DREARY, wacky and scary season of the year is almost here. With Halloween around the corner, parents are challenged to come up with recipes that would make children's mouth water and ask for more. Make your Halloween menu more wicked with these recipes from San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center.

Have a monstrous meal with a taste of EZ Cheezee Nachos and Monster Pizzas using Purefoods Ham, Magnolia Cheezee Spread and Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese. Party on with this Chick N' Cheese Fun Platter using Magnolia Chicken Popcorn and Magnolia Cheezee. Slurp your way through Squash Cream Soup with Purefoods Honeycured Bacon. Bite and enjoy to your heart's delight Beef Jambalaya Wrap with Monterey Beef Sukiyaki Cut. And for the finale, try Dracula's favorite—Chocolate Cone Cakes with Magnolia Baker's Best Margarine.

For more recipe ideas, visit our website at www.san miguelculinary.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center, corner Legaspi and Eagle Streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City 1604.

Monster Pizza

5 pc white bread or mini pizza crusts
1 115 g pizza sauce
½ c Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, grated
1 c Purefoods Cooked Ham, chopped
Pepperoni
Pineapple chunks
Green and red bell pepper black olives

Cut white bread into round shapes or any fun shape you want. Spread some pizza sauce on top and sprinkle with grated Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese. Make desired monster faces using the pepperoni, ham, pineapple chunks, green and red bell pepper, and black olives. Place in the oven toaster until cheese melts and bread gets toasted. Makes 5 servings.

EZ Cheezee Nachos

1 box nacho chips plain
1 c shredded lettuce
½ c whole corn
½ c Purefoods Cooked Ham, diced
1 can Purefoods Spaghetti Sauce
½ c Magnolia Cheezee Spread

Heat nacho chips on the toaster oven. Transfer a platter. Put the shredded lettuce over the chips. Pour spaghetti sauce and add the ham and corn kernels. Top with the Cheezee Spread. Makes 3-4 servings.

Chick N' Cheese Fun Platter

225g Magnolia Chicken Popcorn
200g Magnolia Cheezee
Choice of the following sauces:
Catsup
Barbecue sauce
Sweet and sour sauce

Cook chicken popcorn according to package directions. Slice Magnolia Cheezee and use different cutters to make fun shapes. Place in a big platter and serve with different sauces. Makes 5 servings.

Squash Cream Soup

¼ kg squash, peeled and cut into 1" cubes
¼ c chicken broth
70 g pack instant cream of chicken soup powder
½ c Purefoods Honeycured Bacon, chopped
Parsley, chopped for garnish

Put squash in a deep saucepan. Add enough water to cover. Allow to boil until squash becomes tender, about 15 minutes. Remove squash from pot then puree, adding ¼ c broth until a thick mixture is achieve. Set aside.

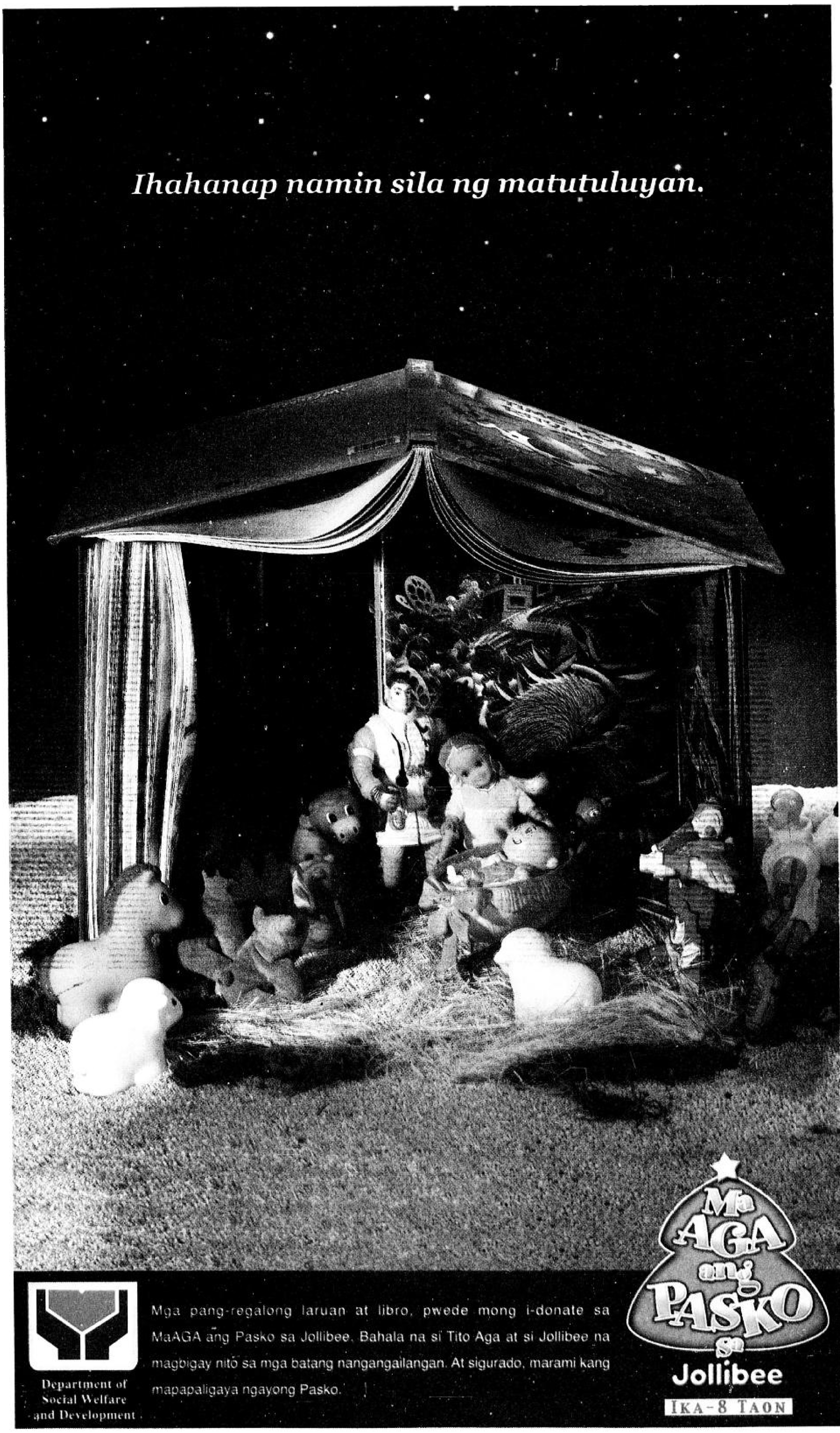
Cook cream soup according to package directions. Meanwhile, pan-fry chopped bacon till crisp. When instant soup is ready, add pureed squash and bacon. Mix well. Serve soup topped with chopped parsley. Makes 6 servings.

Beef Jambalaya Wrap

½ c Dari Creme
1 tsp garlic, chopped
¼ c onions, chopped
¼ c green bell pepper, chopped
¼ c red bell pepper, chopped
210 g Purefoods Spaghetti Sauce
2 c cooked rice
½ kg Monterey Beef Sukiyaki cut
12 pc flour tortillas, small
8 oz Cheezee Spread

Sauté garlic, onions, green and red bell

MAKE/ p.C3



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Nine ways to please your palate

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FINDING a top-draw restaurant in Manila may seem as tough as finding a plastic surgeon with celebrity clientele. But if you didn't have to worry about, say, meeting your mortgage and clothing yourself, you can now not only have one but nine places to choose from. Besides, the newly opened Taste Buds, the Food and Fun Republic, on the second level of Robinsons Place Manila will please your palate without draining your bank account.

An unwavering commitment to the provision of high-quality food and tireless attention to details are qualities common to the diverse group of independent restaurants conceptualized by the leasing team of Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC). "It was created to complement the restaurants in the mall and spice up the dining adventure of mall patrons. The concept is not too 'fast-food'. [It] serves a wide array of affordable good food," says Minda Carpio, RLC's vice president for lease.

> You will be able to eat at Taste Buds, the Food and Fun Republic, in Robinsons Place Manila as often as your foodie soul demands

Located at the Pedro Gil wing of Robinsons Place Manila, Taste Buds' restaurants form a half-sphere on one side, similar to an alcove, only much bigger and wider. An open space at the center can be used for special events like mini-concerts or formal launchings.

"Based on the variety of shoppers visiting the mall as well as the surrounding vicinity, we opted to go for choices. We looked for concepts that were not yet present in the mall but would complement the existing tenant mix. Our goal was to create a new place where the whole family can hang out, have fun and go on a gastronomic adventure. We made sure that the restaurants we chose would give our patrons the ultimate treat for the taste buds," Carpio says.

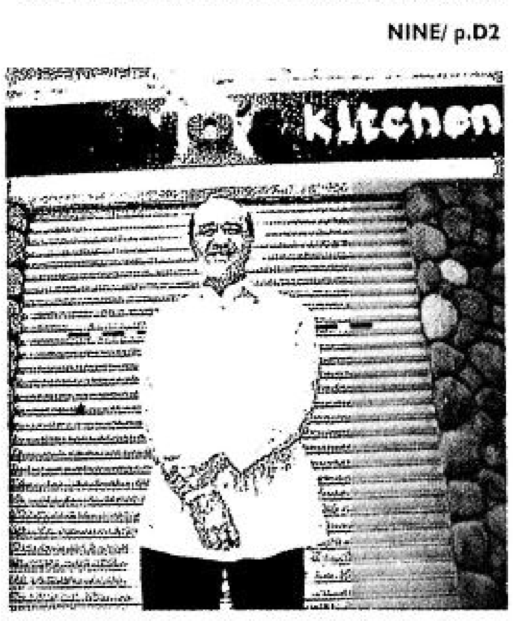
The nine restaurants namely, Mario's Kitchen, Pinoydon, Tang City, Dencio's Bar & Grill, Tequila Joe's, Sushi-Ya Japanese Restaurant, Sugarhouse, Bacolod Chicken Inasal and San Francisco Coffee offer enough flavors and variety to please the most fastidious diner's taste buds.

Myriad of food choices

Take a quick tour and know more about Robinsons Place Manila's nine food establishments.

Mario's Kitchen offers Paellitas, Bangus

NINE/ p.D2



MARIO Benitez, managing director of Mario's Kitchen

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Holiday Compact for lips and face—
All-Over Face Powder
Pure Color Long Lasting Lipstick
2 Go Pout Lipcolors

PLUS
3 Pure Color Long Lasting Lipsticks (full size)
3 Pure Color Nail Lacquers
ILLUSIONIST Maximum Curling Mascara
2 Lip Defining Pencils
Estée Lauder *pleasures* Eau de Parfum Spray
Professional powder brush
Golden pocket purse
Golden cosmetic vanity case

From October 24 – November 10, 2002.
Not valid with value sets and accessories.

pleasures

Delightful Trio
• Eau de Parfum Spray 50ml • Body Creme 100ml
• Bath & Shower Gel 100ml • Silver handbag
₱2,900
(worth over ₱4,000)

LAUDER
Pleasures
FOR MEN

Performing Trio
• Cologne Spray 100ml • Hair & Body Wash 100ml
• After Shave Balm 100ml • Dopp Kit
₱2,700
(worth over ₱4,000)

INTUITION
ESTĒE LAUDER

Lasting Luxuries
• Eau de Parfum Spray 50ml • Fragrant Body Lotion 100ml
• Fragrant Body Wash 100ml • Bronze Cosmetic Bag with hangtag
₱2,980
(worth over ₱4,200)

BEAUTIFUL

Golden Luxuries
• Eau de Parfum Spray 75ml • Perfumed Body Lotion 100ml
• Bath & Shower Gel 100ml • Gold Cosmetic Bag
₱3,700
(worth over ₱5,000)

Exclusively available at:

Rustan's
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • ALABANG • CEBU AYALA
Makati, Tel. No. 817 1884
Shangri-La Plaza, Tel. No. 633 4636 local 106
Alabang, Tel. No. 850 5532 local 101
Cebu Ayala, Tel. No. 231 5641

Beauty bar
Level 1, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati
Tel No. 892 3166 & 892 3153

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4212 Series of 2002

pinoydon

PINOYDON'S management team partners Martin Litton, Deanne Montoya and Alain Panlilio

Nine ways to please your palate

SUGARHOUSE'S Tiramisu

From page D1

Belly à la Pobre, Fish Fillet, Pescado Rebozado con Salmon Ahumado, Lengua con Setas, Callos Madrileña, Pollo al Ajillo, Pollo Adobo y Frito, Barbacoa de Costillas, Arroz à la Cubana, Salpicon de Mar y Tierra, Salpicado, Solomillo and T-Bone Steak.

Pinoydon is a Japanese-Filipino fast-food restaurant that features specialties like Taba ng Talangka in Sushi Rice, Tortang Talong wrapped in Sushi Rice and Ensalada with Kani Tempura, Itlog na Maalat and Oriental Dressing.

Tang City serves Shanghai, Szechuan and Hong Kong cuisine such as Shanghai Tong Po Pork, Fish Fillet with Tofu in Pot, Seafood with Sotanghon Salad, Broccoli Flower with Sliced Beef, Chicken with Asparagus and Pork with Vegetable and Crispy Noodle.

Dencio's Bar & Grill is the place to go to for Filipino cuisine. Order your favorite beer with sizzling *sisig*, crispy *buntot ng tuna*, *inihaw na pusit* or crispy *pata* as *pulutan*.

Tequila Joe's is one of the most popular venues for the young, trendy and hip yuppies. It offers a fusion menu of Mexican, California, Italian and Asian dishes.

Sushi-Ya Japanese Restaurant features tuna and salmon sushi, Donburi (rice toppings of chicken, pork, prawns, sukiyaki and tempura), teriyaki and teppanyaki dishes, Gyoza, chicken teriyaki, mushroom tempura and wasabi ice cream.

Sugarhouse serves sumptuous desserts like Almond Sans Rival, Mango Daiquiri, Mango sans Rival and White Coffee Torte.

Bacolod Chicken Inasal is a popular restaurant chain in Metro Manila that offers chicken barbecue called *inasal* and other popular dishes from Bacolod City such as Chickyninees, KBL (Kadyos, Baboy, Langka), Pancit Efuven, Pancit Talangka, Bangus Lumpia and Talangka Rice.

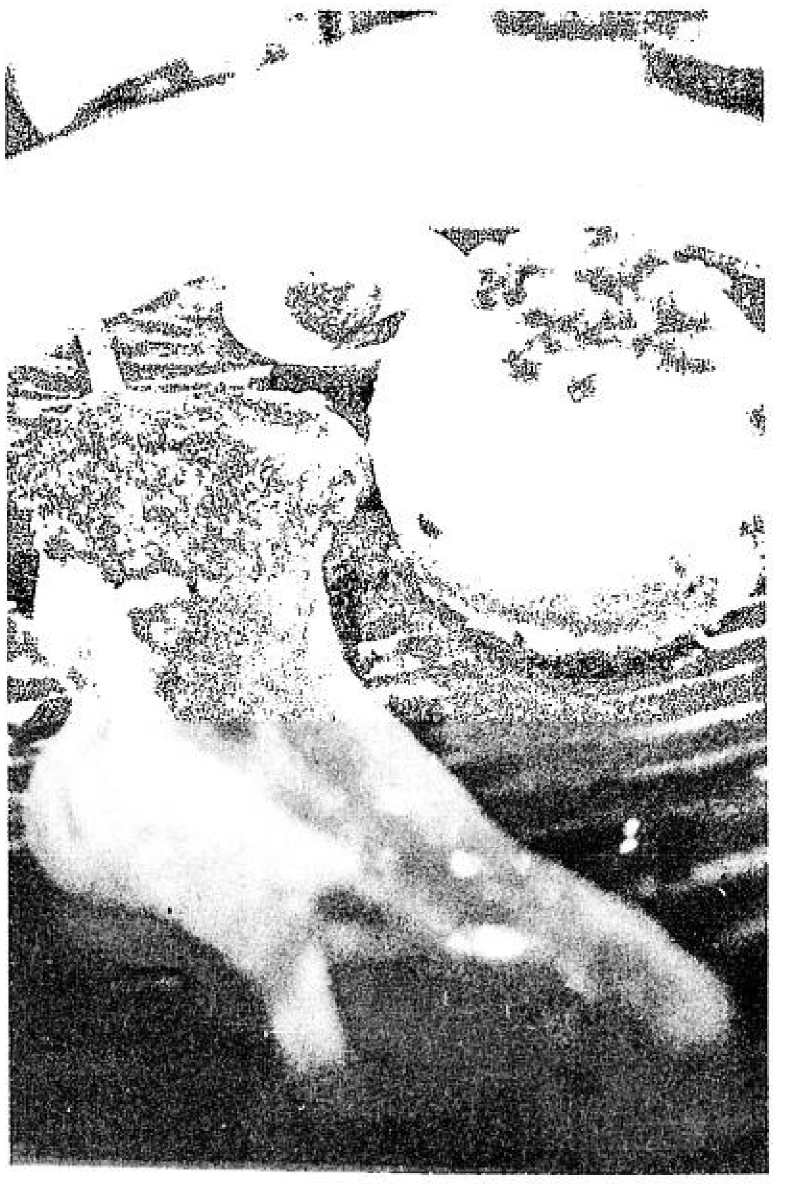
San Francisco Coffee features coffee concoctions like Mo' Mocha, Caramel by the Sea, Buena Vista, Golden Gate, Cable Car Blend, Espresso con Panna and Bay Bridge Sunrise. It also serves pasta, salads, sandwiches, cakes, cookies and bars, pastries and Danish breads.

Whether you want to savor a full meal or a light snack; or crave Japanese, Chinese, Filipino food or a fusion of the three Taste Buds is the place for you. "It's also about individuality because you can be whoever you want to be and express your mood at the moment. Taste Buds' atmosphere is cool and casual, not intimidating but very inviting," Carpio says.

E-mail the author at rburgos @inquirer.com.ph

TEQUILA Joe's chef Bobby Goco and president Michael Dargani and wife Nameeta Dargani

DENCIO'S owners Janet Valles, Mary Rose Rabat and husband Eric Rabat



BACOLOD Chicken Inasal's chicken *inasal*

Buffet offers some Ilonggo diversions

THIS month, Cabalen perks up its Kapampangan buffet with eat-all-you-want Ilonggo dishes for P220 per person. The treat includes the best of Ilonggo specialties such as Kalabasa with Saluyot, Rellenong Alimasag, Sinigang na Bulalo (Ilonggo style), Crispy Crablets and Halaan Kalabasa Soup.

Cabalen restaurants are located on West Avenue, QC; 214 Katipunan Avenue, QC; 4/L SM Megamall B; Glorietta 3; 2/L Robinsons Place Ermita; 2/L SM North Edsa, QC; Brick Road Area, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall; and the newly opened branch in Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando, Pampanga. Soon to open is a Cabalen branch at Harrison Plaza. For catering services, call Flor Villote at 647-4988/647-5088. For franchising inquiries, call Donna Ignacio at 913-5528. Visit the Cabalen website at www.cabalenrestaurant.com.

Following are recipes for readers to try at home.

Kalabasa with Saluyot

1 bunch *sayote* tops
1 pc red onion
2 pc tomato
1 bunch *saluyot*
½ kg *kalabasa*
200 g fresh *alamang*
2 tbsp salt
10 c water

Wash *talbos ng sayote*; drain and slice 2-inch long (get only the young stem and leaves). Set aside. Wash *saluyot* and drain; get the young leaves. Set aside. Wash, peel and slice *kalabasa*. Wash fresh *alamang* and drain. Peel and slice onion. Wash and slice tomato. Set aside.

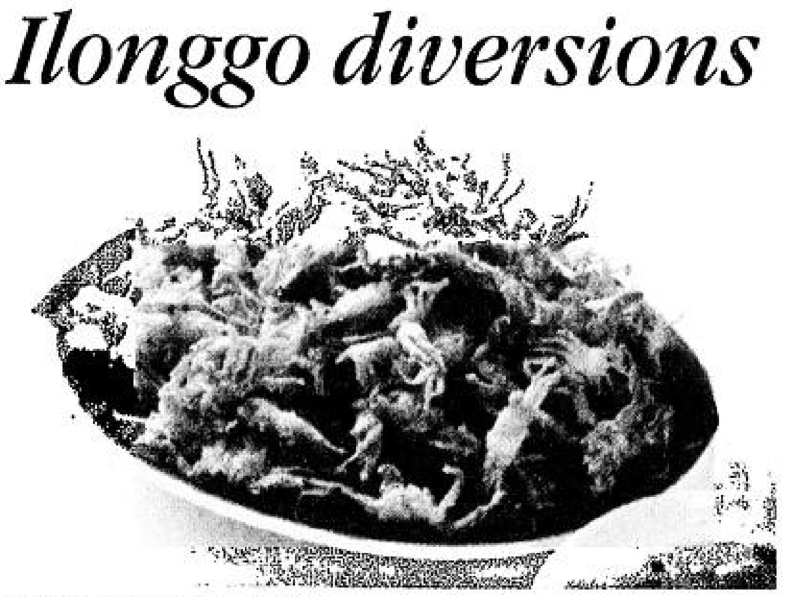
In casserole, bring to boil water, salt, tomatoes and onion for 3 minutes. Add sliced *kalabasa*. When half-cooked, add *talbos ng sayote*, *saluyot* leaves and fresh *alamang*. Stir and allow to simmer 5-10 mins. or until cooked. (Don't overcook vegetables.)

Sinigang na Bulalo (Ilonggo style)

1 kg *bulalo*
½ kg *camias*
1 pc red onion
4 pc *tanglad*
1 tbsp whole black pepper
30 c *tanglad*
2 tbsp *atsuete*
1 ½ tbsp salt
½ pc small-size *langka*
6 pc *sili*, long

Wash *bulalo*, set aside. Peel and slice onion into quarters. Wash and peel *langka*; slice ½-inch thick. Extract 2 tbsp *atsuete* in 6 tbsp water. Remove extracted *atsuete* seeds. Set aside *atsuete* extract. Wash and remove end of *camias*; slice ½-inch thick diagonally (slant). Wash *tanglad*. Set aside. Wash *sili*. Set aside.

In a casserole, bring to boil *bulalo* until tender. Add onion, black pepper whole, *tanglad*, *camias* and *langka*. Boil for 3 minutes. Add *atsuete* extract, stir. Continue simmering until *langka* is tender. Add salt and *sili*. Boil for 1 minute then taste. Remove from fire. Serve.



CABALEN'S Crispy Crablets

Rellenong Alimasag

1 kg crabmeat
1 clove garlic
4 pc potato
1 pc red onion
60 g raisins
½ tbsp whole black pepper, ground
60 g green peas
5 pc chicken egg
2 pc red bell pepper
4 c Minola oil
2 pc green bell pepper
2 pc tomato
40 pc crab shell
2 tbsp margarine

Peel and slice potato into medium cubes. Wash. Fry for 2 minutes. Drain oil and set aside. Wash, peel and slice onions. Peel and slice garlic, set aside. Wash and slice tomatoes, set aside. Slice and remove seeds of *sili* red and green. Slice into medium cubes. Set aside. Sauté garlic to margarine until golden brown. Add onion and cook until wilted. Add tomatoes and cook until mushy. Add black pepper and salt. Stir. Add crabmeat, stir. Cover. Simmer for 5 minutes. Taste. Set aside and cool.

With a wire whisk, scramble 5 pc chicken egg until bubbles appear. Fill crab shell with 50 g cooked crabmeat. Cover with 8 g flour. Pour in scrambled egg to cover stuffed crab shell. Deep-fry for 3 minutes or until light brown. Drain excess oil. Serve.

ILONGGO dishes in Cabalen's P220 per head buffet

Halaan-Kalabasa Soup

2 kg *halaan* (clams)
1 pc onion
1 ½ kg squash
80 g lemon grass
½ kg pork ribs
3 tbsp black beans
1 tsp salt
1/8 c cooking oil
½ bunch *malunggay* leaves
1 clove garlic

Wash *halaan* thrice. Drain, set aside. Wash pork ribs, drain, set aside. Peel and wash *kalabasa*, discard seeds, slice, set aside. Wash and drain black beans. Wash lemon grass, pound root-end, set aside. Wash and drain *malunggay*, discard stem (get only the leaves), set aside.

In clean casserole, combine sliced *kalabasa*, pork ribs, lemon grass, water and salt. Bring to boil for 5 minutes. Reduce fire. Continue simmering until tender. Remove squash, mash until very smooth in consistency (use fine mesh stainer). Add mashed squash to the boiling meat. Continue boiling until meat is tender. While simmering, in a clean wok, sauté garlic until golden brown. Add onion and cook until waited. Add black beans, stir simmer for 1 min. Add *halaan* and stir. Add sautéed *halaan* to the simmering meat. Add salt to taste. Add *malunggay* leaves. Ready to serve.

Crispy Crablets

1 kg crablets
1 tsp ground black pepper
½ c Tanduay ESQ
1 c flour
1 tbsp salt
4 c cooking oil

Wash crablets; drain thoroughly. In clean mixing bowl, combine crablets, Tanduay ESQ, salt and ground black pepper. Mix and marinate for 15 minutes. Drain.

Sprinkle and mix flour to marinated crablets. Heat oil in a wok. Deep-fry crablets until golden brown. Drain excess oil. Serve with vinegar sauce.

Saturating market with iodized salt

ONLY 15-20 percent of Filipinos use iodized salt despite a seven-year-old law that requires the local markets to sell only iodine-fortified salt to consumers. We expect the number of iodized salt users to increase considerably after the "Patak sa Asin" market-to-market campaign launched last week by the Department of Health.

The saturation drive will cover 2,000 marketplaces all over the country in an attempt to drive out non-iodized salt from market sellers. Armed with salt-tester kits, the DOH workers will confiscate the regular salt and replace this with fortified salt, free while the campaign lasts. After that, any vendor caught selling ordinary salt will be warned for first offense and then fined a minimum of P1,000 to a maximum of P100,000 if caught again violating the Asin law. Heading the drive is health secretary Dr. Manuel Dayrit Jr. with the support of the salt industry, local government units, Department of Trade and Industry, and the National Nutrition Council.

Secretary Dayrit disclosed at the recent journalists' workshop organized by the Asian Food Information Center that a big percentage of Filipino children are growing up with iodine deficiency. "It's a human tragedy that infants are iodine-deficient. We could be keeping them alive, but they may already be disadvantaged. They could be potentially 10-15 percent lower in IQ." Iodine is a mineral needed by the body for physical growth and development of brain cells.

Consumers will expectedly pay a little more for the fortified salt. It will be very minimal, assured officials of Salt Asia, one of the campaign sponsors and distributor of imported salt. They sell iodized salt at P2 a kilo per bulk and about P5 per pack.

Iodized salt and other products

Guess where Salt Asia, one of the biggest producers of iodized salt, gets its salt? Company officials disclosed: "Source of our salt is the Dead Sea. It's not actually a sea, but a 50-mile long by 11-mile wide salt lake between Jordan and Israel. This lowest body of water on earth is almost six times as salty as the ocean. Seven million tons of water evaporate daily, but the minerals remain, causing the salt content to continually increase and cover the shores with white salt crystals."

The company also distributes salt for veterinary nutrition and for industrial application. What is interesting is a new product that is still under wraps. It's a bath salt that is said to contain goat's milk, all-natural oat bran, pigments and scents. (For more information on Salt Asia products, e-mail salt_asia@edsamail. com.ph)

By the way, here are some trivia about iodized salt from the experts:

- Salt is the common name of sodium chloride (NaCl).
- It comes in different particle sizes and forms. Discrete crystals can be seen in rock salt, fine granules in table salt, slightly coarser as in kosher salt and pickling salt, small compressed pellets for water softeners, and large salt blocks as salt licks for livestock.
- Shelf life is only six months under bright light.
- Iodine in salt disappears fast during cooking time, usually after five minutes. Apply only toward end of cooking.
- Iodized salt remains stable from 12 to 18 months in sauces and other processed products as *patis* and *toyo*.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

Complaints and comments

M. Ong of myo803@yahoo.com wrote: "I bought an Iweb prepaid Internet card. I don't know what is wrong but when I tried to log on, I couldn't connect. It refused to accept the password encoded at the back of the card. I tried calling up their help desk but nobody answered the phone." (We tried to call but the phone just kept on ringing.)

Distraught mom Ofelia Santos is calling the attention of the shop owner of G. Gozum in Megamall, first, to report about a defective pair of jogging pants (P499) she bought for her daughter, and to complain about non-cooperating sales staff. According to Santos, while her daughter was doing a physical education activity, the jogging pants was ripped and the torn part exposed her underwear in front of her classmates. She was laughed at and ridiculed.

"My daughter cried because of the humiliation. When I called up the store and reported about [the defect of] their product and my daughter's humiliating experience, the salesperson who answered me was non-cooperative and even sounded arrogant in her reply."

Ms Santos should bring the ripped pants and ask for a replacement. She should, of course, bring the receipt of purchase.

M. Nuñez of mynunez@asia.com wrote about a leg scar which experts at a dermatology/slimming center has been treating for several months now. The therapist promised her that the scar treatment would be very effective in banishing the scar. She said: "Although I still have about 10 sessions left, it bothers me to see that my scar hasn't improved significantly over the last few months. I purposely signed up at this center because the experts assured me that the scar would disappear. I already had two chemical peels, one salt scrub, and about 30 bleaching sessions. I give them credit, however, for making the scar lighter and less conspicuous."

Nuñez should have asked for a formal contract assuring her that the leg scar would disappear after the leg scar treatment within a specified period of time. Then she could press for refund in case the treatment doesn't work.

Calling National Statistics Office

Here's the urgent plea of Edwin Pinero Cariño of Siliman University: "I paid the NSO Plus Line for two copies, but they sent me only one copy of my birth certificate. I've been calling them to follow up my request for the second copy. But there is always a different clerk who answers my call. Fed up by the runaround, I asked my sister to request NSO for my birth certificate. She submitted all the required documents. Imagine our surprise when we received a reply from NSO stating 'negative certification.' That meant my records could not be found. How can that happen when they sent me my birth certificate previously? I was only hoping to get another copy so I could comply with the requirements needed to process my application paper to Canada."

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

Learn exciting and fun ways to cook

GET a chance to become a culinary connoisseur at the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center this month. Know more than just your basics. Go outdoors and have barbeque and grills. Make your own candied fruits and pickles. Plus, get a chance to know the ins and outs of the culinary business, starting from your basic cooking down to restaurant operations.

Get out of your kitchen and discover the wonders of barbeque and grills. Attend the class headed by Malaysian Chef Sita Ram on Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and barbeque away! Learn different marinating and grilling techniques using lamb, chicken, pork, beef and seafood with special concocted sauces.

Do you have a sweet tooth? Make your own candies. Attend the two-day workshop on candied fruits and pickles on Oct. 29-30, 1:30-5 p.m. Create assorted glazed fruits that are great for fruitcakes this Christmas (*calamansi*, lemon, orange, pineapple, *kamias* and *condol*). Plus, a bonus lesson on candied ginger and tomatoes. For pickles, you can learn how to make *atchara* and chutneys. Enroll now at P1,500 only.

A more comprehensive cooking course for career cooks is offered for Cooking II. Classes will run Nov. 6-8, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The course will cover menu planning, standard techniques of preparing steaks, soups, sauce, dressing, salads, main dishes and homemade cold cuts. All of which are applicable to over 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. The workshop is at P2,500 with free lunch.

Baking I, on the other hand, will tackle hands on techniques in preparing basic piecrust, different types of cakes, quick breads, and yeast breads. The course will run Nov. 6-8, 1:30-5 p.m., with a fee of P2,000.

Once you know your way around the kitchen, why not start your own business? Take Restaurant Operations on Oct. 25-26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Study kitchen organization, planning your menus, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, restaurant works and menu techniques on profitable service operations. Learn the ins and outs of restaurant operations. Invest only P2, 000 for the know-how. The course includes free lunch.

Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday) at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue, (Pasay Road), Makati. Call 892-1185/892-5011 local 108, or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

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Rosa Rosal

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for as low as
P399/month!

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- No health questions!
- Cash paid directly and quickly to you
- As low as P399/month
- P25,000 weekly hospital cash for accidents
- Up to P250,000 cash benefit for Broken Bones, Burns, and Internal Injuries
- 24-Hour Worldwide Coverage
- Coverage up to 85 years old
- Consultations with any physician
- Double cash payment in case of death caused by an earthquake

Type	Benefits
Broken Bones, Burns, Internal Injuries	P 250,000
Accidental Death	P 2,000,000
Weekly Hospital Cash for Accidents	P 25,000
Permanent Total Disability	P 2,000,000
Double Cash Payment	P 2,000,000

Other plans are also available.

20% discount for your spouse if both of you enroll.

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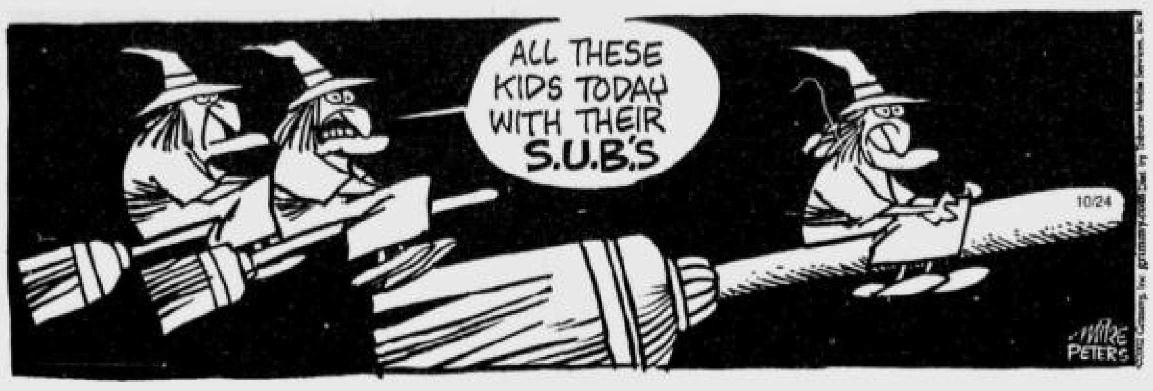
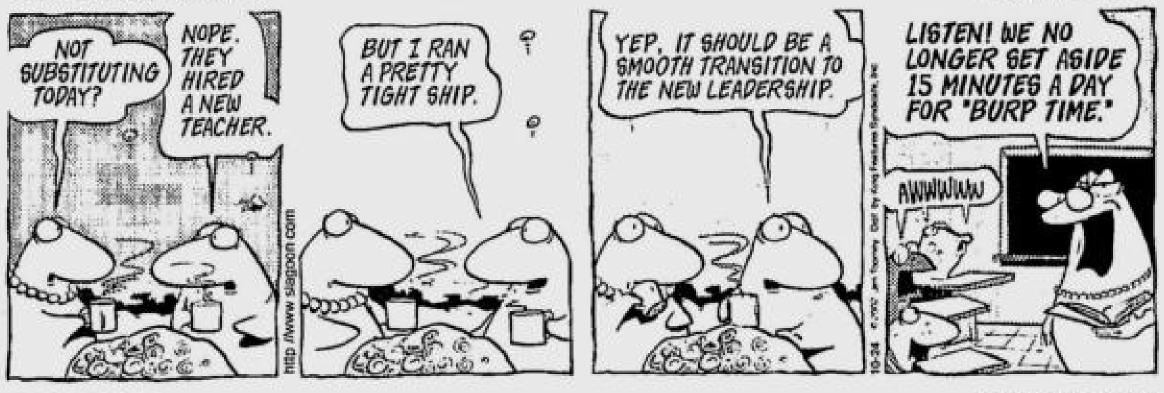
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ALL THESE KIDS TODAY WITH THEIR S.U.B.'S
10/24
MIKE PETERS

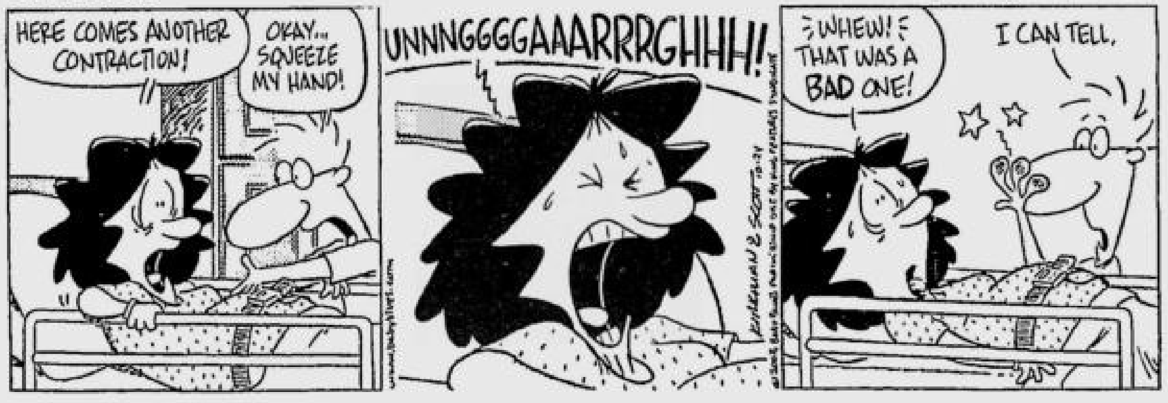
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


NOT SUBSTITUTING TODAY?
NOPE. THEY HIRED A NEW TEACHER.
BUT I RAN A PRETTY TIGHT SHIP.
YEP, IT SHOULD BE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO THE NEW LEADERSHIP.
LISTEN! WE NO LONGER GET ASIDE 15 MINUTES A DAY FOR "BURP TIME."
AWWWWW
http://www.slagoon.com

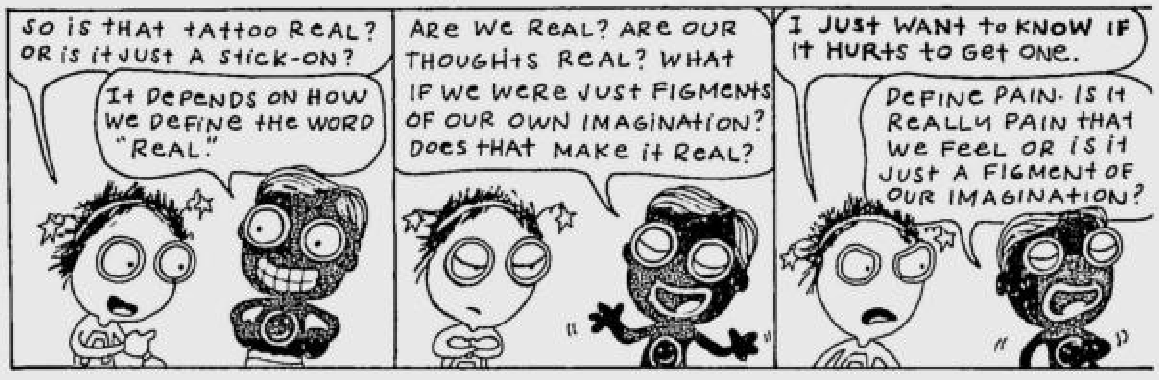
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HERE COMES ANOTHER CONTRACTION!
OKAY... SQUEEZE MY HAND!
UNNNGGGGAAARRRGHHH!!
WHEW! THAT WAS A BAD ONE!
I CAN TELL.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO IS THAT TATTOO REAL? OR IS IT JUST A STICK-ON?
IT DEPENDS ON HOW WE DEFINE THE WORD "REAL."
ARE WE REAL? ARE OUR THOUGHTS REAL? WHAT IF WE WERE JUST FIGMENTS OF OUR OWN IMAGINATION? DOES THAT MAKE IT REAL?
I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF IT HURTS TO GET ONE.
DEFINE PAIN. IS IT REALLY PAIN THAT WE FEEL OR IS IT JUST A FIGMENT OF OUR IMAGINATION?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Kline, Bill Wyman, F. Murray Abraham, Ben Gillies

Happy Birthday: You will have the world in the palm of your hand this year if you play your cards right. Push through your ideas and focus on getting ahead. Your ability to take hold of a situation and turn it into something worthwhile will be praised . Your courage AND your quick wit will lead you to the winner's circle. Your numbers are 8, 13, 22, 31, 37, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Go over the work you've done and make sure you're totally pleased before you present it to your boss. This is not the time to make mistakes. Don't be afraid to discuss your goals with a superior.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Follow your gut feeling regarding your business ventures. Others cannot know what is best for you. False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Uncertainty regarding your direction is likely. Look into career choices and courses being offered. Take your time and do your homework so that you can make educated decisions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't overspend to impress someone who interests you. You may find yourself in an uncomfortable situation if you have overloaded your plate unintentionally. Now's the time to reassess the situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think carefully before you speak. You will get behind if you spend too much time debating senseless issues. Don't let your friends talk you into taking time off. This is the time to remain disciplined.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be able to close business deals successfully. Don't let your personal problems interfere with your professional responsibilities. This is the time to make headway with your career.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts today. Everything should proceed easily. Property investments, insurance, taxes or inheritance should bring you financial gains.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you're willing to cut loose you will find yourself in the midst of an exciting encounter. Get out and socialize. You can mix business with pleasure if you travel or address large groups or organizations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful not to let someone at work make you look bad. Don't believe that everyone has your best interests at heart. Your diplomatic nature will aid you in straightening out unsavory situations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get involved in competitive sports with clients. They will appreciate your determination and playful nature. Just remember that it's only a game. You will make new business connections if you play your cards right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may jump from the frying pan into the fire if you make a move today. Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Bide your time; the right opportunity will present itself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Participate in physical endeavors that will help you relieve your tension. Entertainment will be pleasing if it is energetic. You may want to get friends together and go out dancing or compete in team sports.

Birthday Baby: You will be charming, inventive and entertaining. You will jump from one thing to another, always searching for something new .

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Salon treatment, for short
5 Nip
9 Felt ill
14 Out of port
15 Mr. Knievel
16 Male duck
17 Town near Caen
18 Rajah's wife
19 Lions' hairdos
20 Start of a Euripides quote
23 Do the floor again
24 Approach
25 Walter Reuther's org.
28 Cen. units
29 Table scrap
31 Do up a sneaker again
33 Part 2 of quote
36 Key-changing device
39 Actress Long
40 Geese formations
41 Part 3 of quote
46 "My Little __"
47 Woodshed tool
48 Health resort
51 Altar constellation
52 Turner of "Madame X"
55 Typewriter roller
57 End of quote
60 Hobbits' homeland
62 Wild tusker
63 October gem
64 Stand for art
65 Singer Brickell
66 Zero
67 Tom of "The Seven Year Itch"
68 Table support
69 Formerly, once

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				■	18				■	19				
20				21					22				■	■
23						■	24				■	25	26	27
28			■	29		30	■	■	31		32			
■	■	■	33				34	35						
36	37	38		■	■	39			■	■	40			
41				42	43				44	45		■	■	■
46						■	■	47			■	48	49	50
51			■	52		53	54	■	55		56			
■	■	57	58					59						
60	61				■	62				■	63			
64					■	65				■	66			
67					■	68				■	69			

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

10/24/02

DOWN
1 Crust dough
2 Swimmer Williams
3 Finds a new tenant for a flat
4 New Zealand Polynesian
5 Frenzied
6 __ the Terrible
7 Mortise partner
8 Select group
9 Regards with approval
10 Persia today
11 Means of communication
12 Just get by
13 __ Moines
21 "The Time Machine" race
22 Tortoise's rival
26 Dull pain
27 Waters
30 Care for
32 Roman historian
33 Part of LP
34 Deadlock
35 Mandlikova of tennis
36 Cook thriller
37 At a distance
38 Perfect place
42 Wildcatter's hole
43 Tilt
44 Gives up the ghost
45 Gibson and Ferrer
48 Daze
49 Oval nuts
50 Lower-limb jewelry
53 Dynamite man
54 Battery terminal
56 By oneself
58 City on the Oka
59 Reagan's Secretary of State
60 Understand
61 Turn left!

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

T	E	S	L	A	■	I	G	O	R	■	E	S	S	O
O	O	H	E	D	■	N	O	S	E	■	D	E	A	D
O	N	E	T	O	N	S	O	U	P	■	G	I	V	E
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R	A	R	E	■	D	E	A	L	E	R	■	R	S	A
E	L	A	T	E	S	■	L	I	L	A	C	S	■	■
D	I	C	T	A	■	A	T	M	■	L	L	A	N	O
■	■	K	E	T	O	N	E	■	S	E	A	L	E	D
A	P	O	■	E	N	T	R	A	P	■	W	A	R	D
R	E	F	E	R	E	E	■	T	E	E	■	D	O	S
I	N	L	A	Y	S	■	S	L	A	S	H	■	■	■
S	P	A	S	■	T	A	T	A	R	S	A	U	C	E
T	A	M	E	■	A	L	A	S	■	E	R	R	O	L
A	L	B	S	■	R	E	N	T	■	S	E	N	D	S

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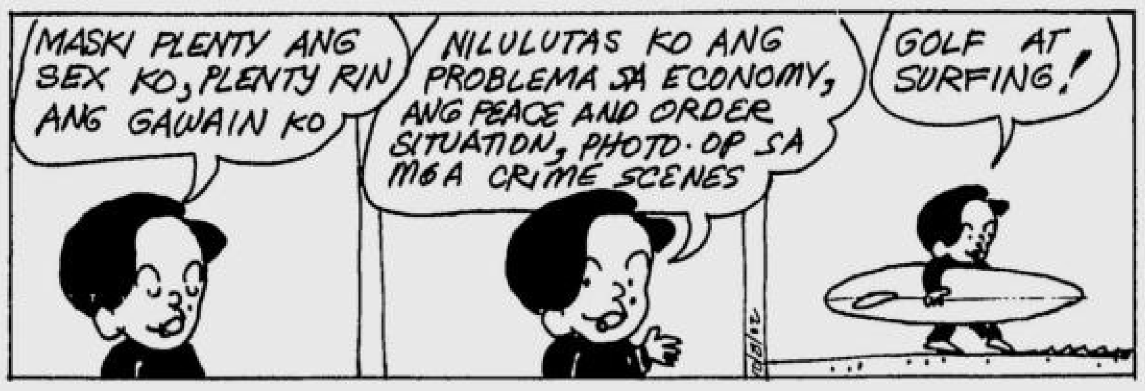
10/24/02

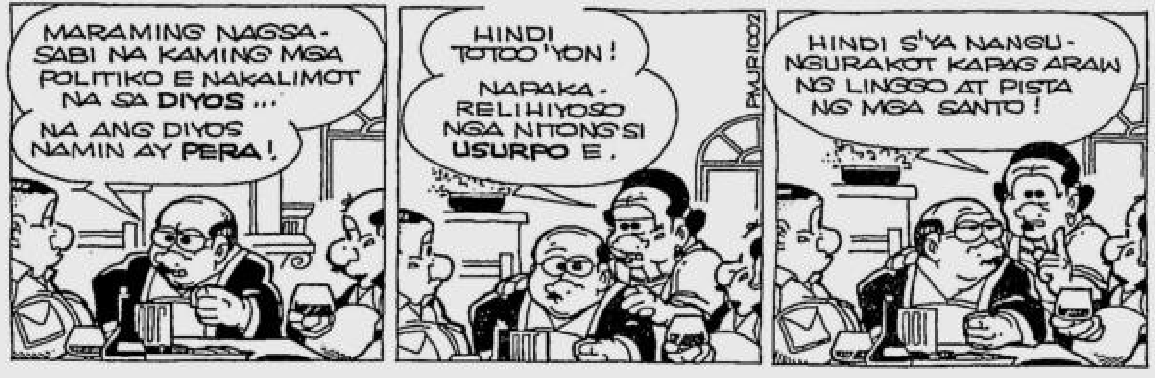
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MASKI PLENTY ANG SEX KO, PLENTY RIN ANG GAWAIN KO
NILULUTAS KO ANG PROBLEMA SA ECONOMY, ANG PEACE AND ORDER SITUATION, PHOTO-OP SA MGA CRIME SCENES
GOLF AT SURFING!

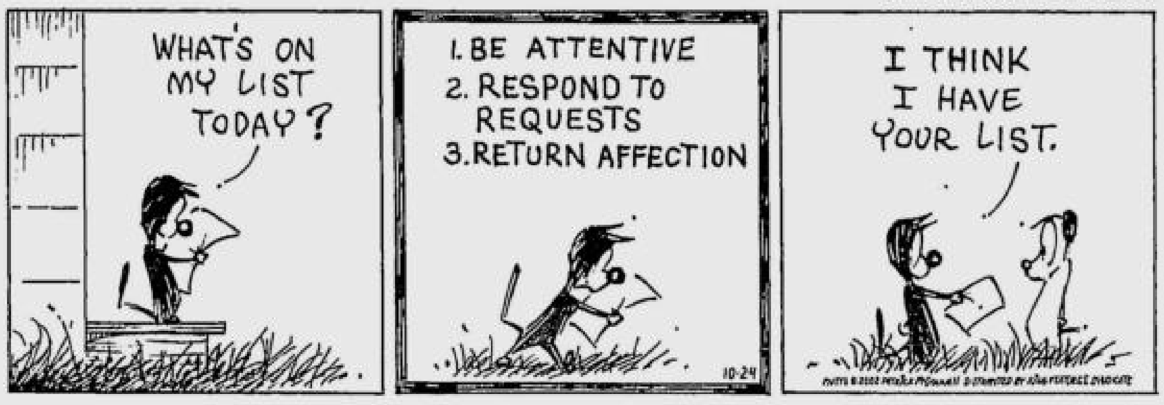
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MARAMING NAGSASABI NA KAMING MGA POLITIKO E NAKALIMOT NA SA DIYOS ...
NA ANG DIYOS NAMIN AY PERA!
HINDI TOTOO 'YON!
NAPAKA-RELIHIYOSO NGA NITONG SI USURPO E.
PMJR1002
HINDI S'YA NANGUNGURAKOT KAPAG ARAW NG LINGGO AT PISTA NG MGA SANTO!

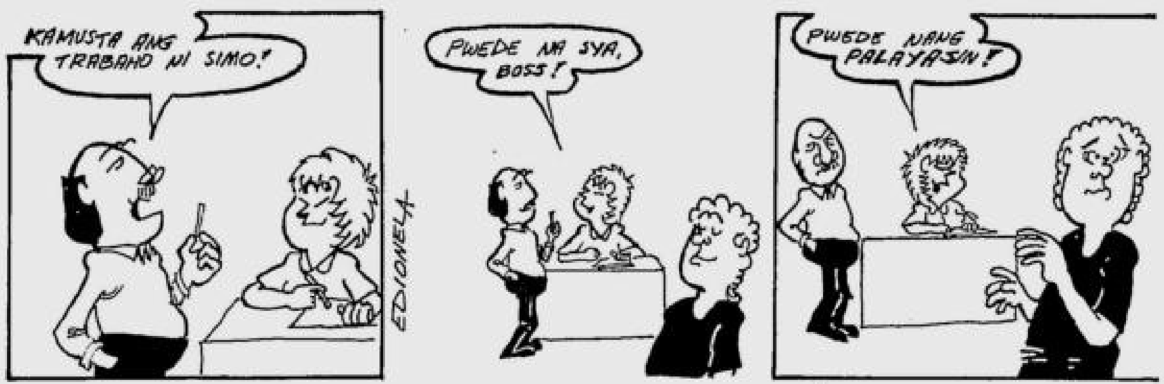
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY LIST TODAY?
1. BE ATTENTIVE
2. RESPOND TO REQUESTS
3. RETURN AFFECTION
10-24
I THINK I HAVE YOUR LIST.

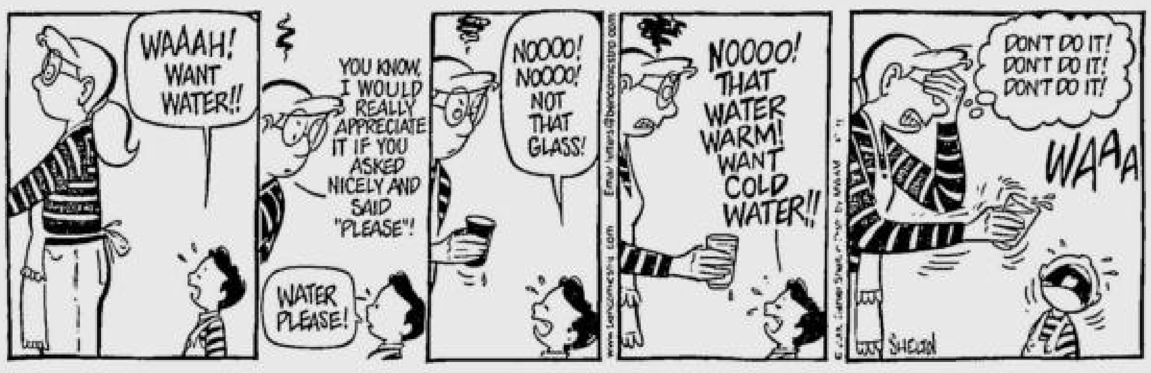
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KAMUSTA ANG TRABAHO NI SIMO!
EDIONELA
PWEDE NA SYA, BOSS!
PWEDE NANG PALAYASIN!

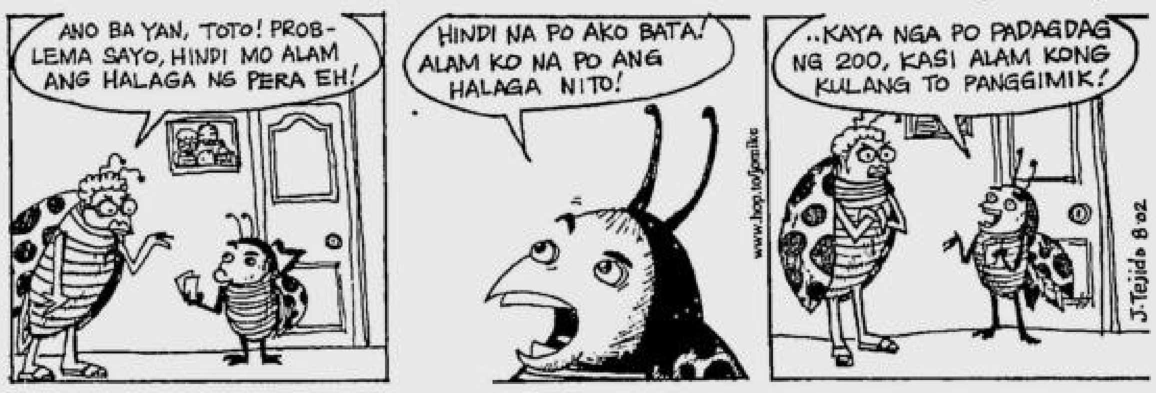
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAAAH! WANT WATER!!
YOU KNOW, I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU ASKED NICELY AND SAID "PLEASE"!
WATER PLEASE!
NOOOO! NOOOO! NOT THAT GLASS!
NOOOO! THAT WATER WARM! WANT COLD WATER!!
DON'T DO IT! DON'T DO IT! DON'T DO IT!
WAAA
SHELTON

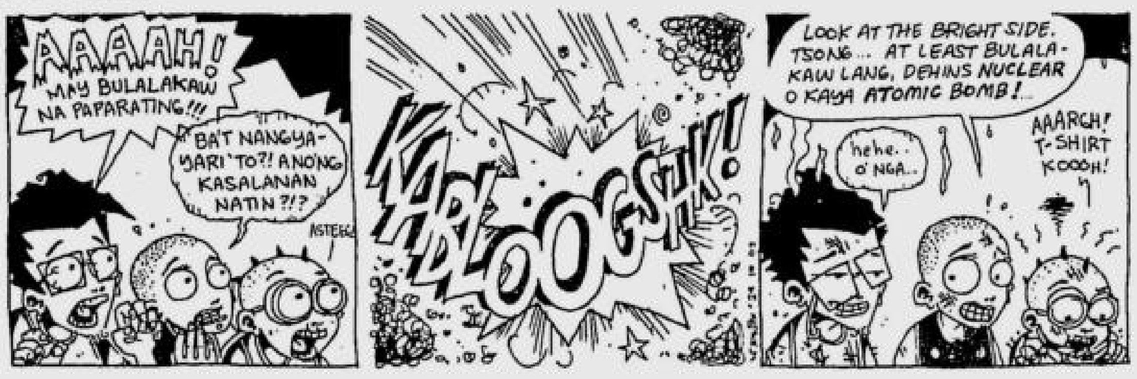
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO BA YAN, TOTO! PROBLEMA SAYO, HINDI MO ALAM ANG HALAGA NG PERA EH!
HINDI NA PO AKO BATA! ALAM KO NA PO ANG HALAGA NITO!
www.hop.to/jomike
..KAYA NGA PO PADAGDAG NG 200, KASI ALAM KONG KULANG TO PANGGIMIK!
J. Tejido 8 02

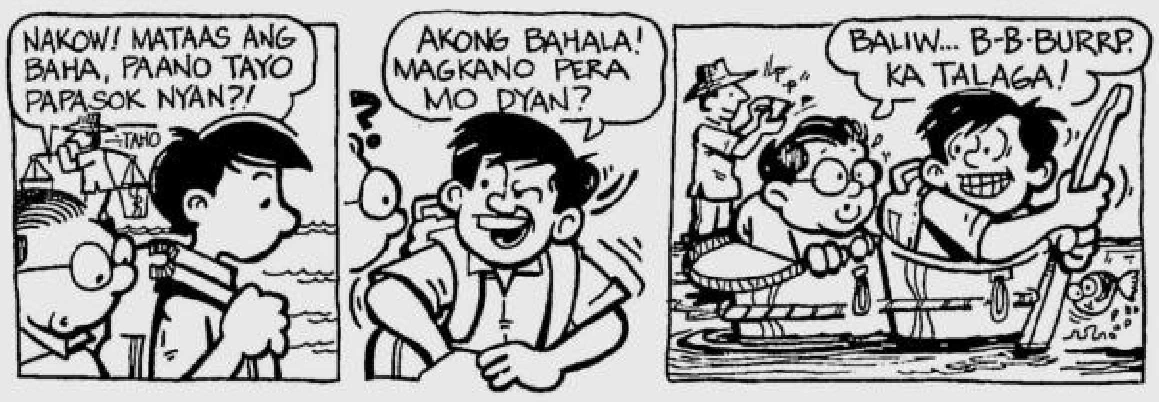
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AAAAH! MAY BULALAKAW NA PAPARATING!!!
BA'T NANGYAYARI 'TO?! ANONG KASALANAN NATIN?!?
ASTEG!
KABLOOGSHK!
LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, TSONG... AT LEAST BULALAKAW LANG, DEHINS NUCLEAR O KAYA ATOMIC BOMB!
hehe.. O'NGA..
AAARCH! T-SHIRT KOOOH!

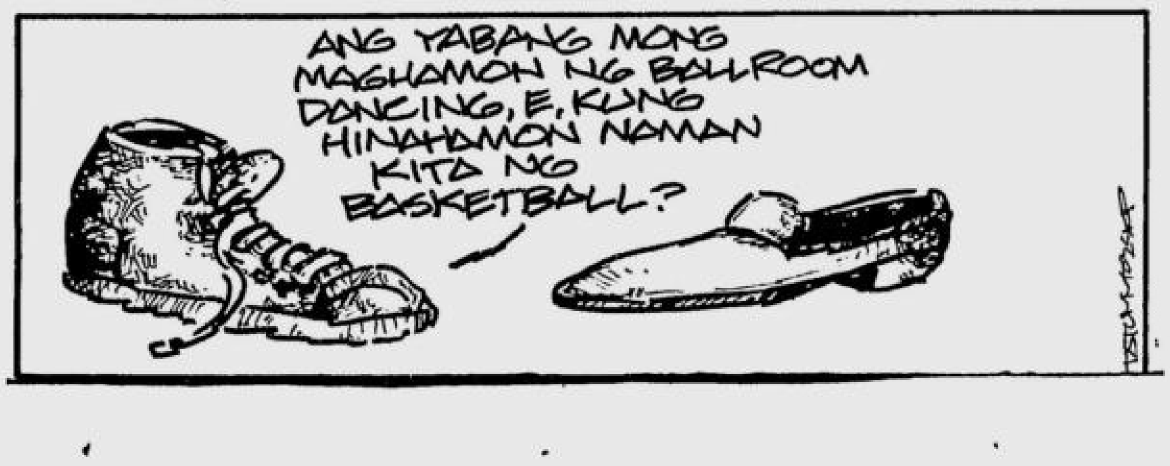
GENG"S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO


NAKOW! MATAAS ANG BAHA, PAANO TAYO PAPASOK NYAN?!
TAHO
AKONG BAHALA! MAGKANO PERA MO DYAN?
BALIW... B-B-BURRP. KA TALAGA!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANG YABANG MONG MAGHAMON NG BALLROOM DANCING, E, KUNG HINAHAMON NAMAN KITA NG BASKETBALL?

Experience an exciting witch party

ALL Hallow's Eve, or Halloween for most of us, is usually celebrated in major parts of the world with parties, masquerade balls and other fun-filled celebrations. But where did this occasion originate? Why is it celebrated?

Halloween is known in witchcraft as *samhain* (pronounced *sow-in*, *sah-vin* or *sam-hyne*), which literally means "summer's end." It is a Sabbath, which is celebrated on Oct. 31. It is one of the two "spirit nights" each year, a magical interval when the mundane laws of time and space are temporarily suspended and the thin veil between the worlds is lifted. *Samhain* is generally considered as the witch's New Year.

Apples, witch's brooms or the besom, and black cats symbolize this occasion. The colors for the celebration are orange, white, silver, gold and black.

On Oct. 31, this will be showcased in one spectacular event called "The Witch's Brew." It will be held at the Sunset Bar of The Westin Philippine Plaza, 6:59 p.m., at the strike of twilight.

Feel the ambience of charm and mysticism as psychics, astrologers, tarot readers, crystal ball gazers and new age people gather together to celebrate the witch's new year. Behold as members of the press such as Ces Oreña-Drilon, Bernadette Sembrano, Love Añover, Eliza Zamora, Tim Yap, Rissa Mananquil Samson, TJ Manotoc, Lexi Schulze, Jenni Epperson and Yeng Lim take the ramp in "The Witch's Parade." It will feature spellbinding and mythical creations by the Philippines' most promising designers—Peter Lim, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Mel Vergel de Dios, Richard Papa, Johnny Abad, Jojie Lloren, Glenn Lopez and Dennis Lustico. Louie Ignacio holds the magic wand of direction.

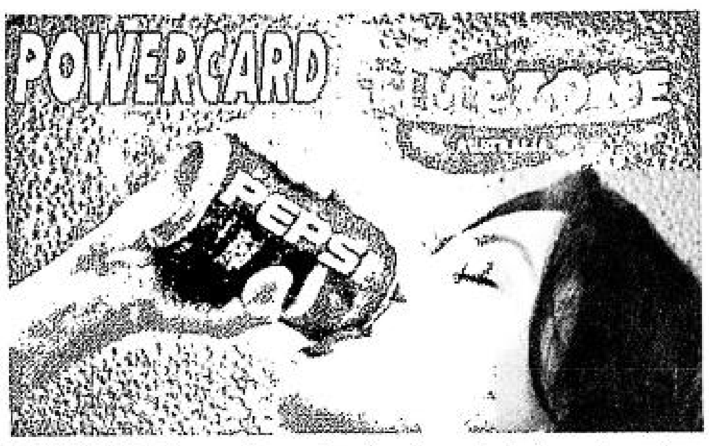
So be in the best witch's costume of silver, purple, orange or gold and experience the most exciting witch's party ever.

Ticket is priced at P2,500. Call 687-8716/4618 or e-mail mindshackers@edsamail.com.ph.

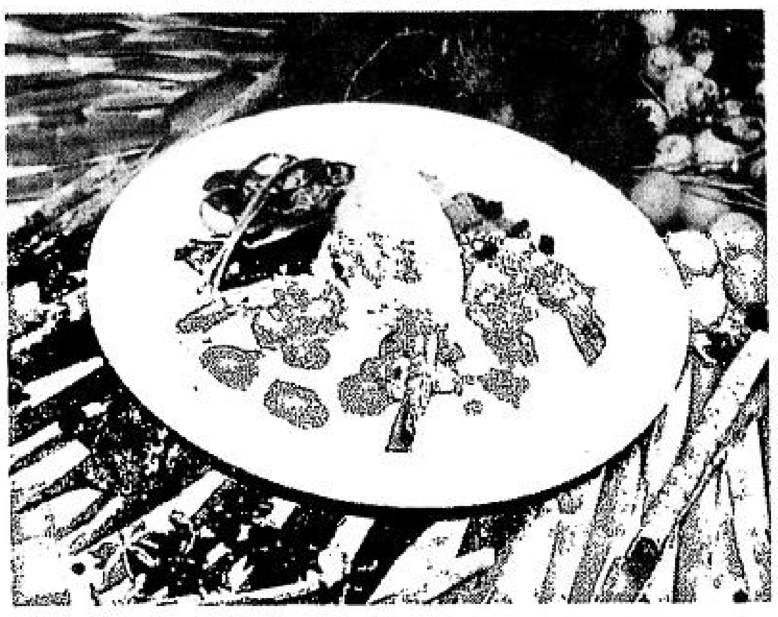
Chinese restaurant's 3rd outlet opens

DAVID'S Tea House on Timog Avenue will hold a grand opening on Oct. 28, 2:30 p.m., with a 40-percent discount on all foods on Oct. 29-31. Owner David Yau continues a tradition of good Chinese cooking began by his grandfather Yau Long Chau in the 1930s in Guangtong, China. David held a soft opening of his restaurant last Oct. 8.

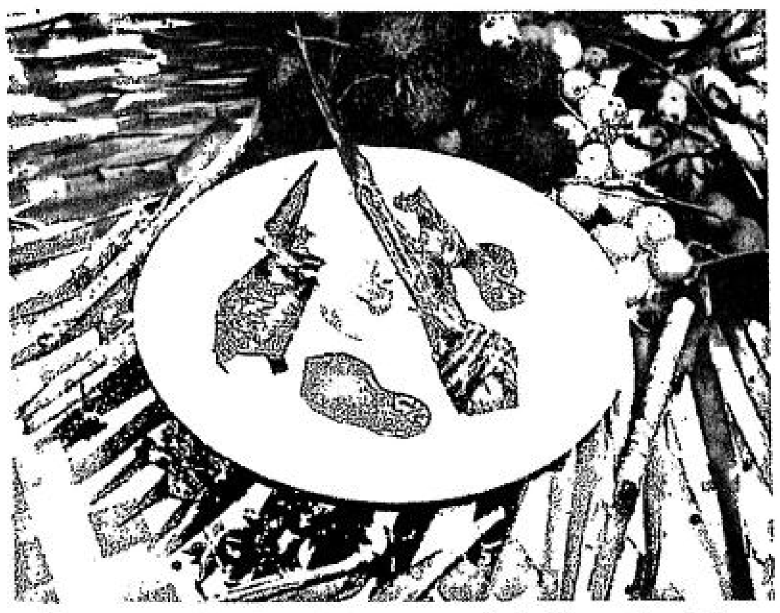
David's father Yau Toh Kam opened his own restaurant in Hong Kong in the 1960s, while David came to the Philippines in 1992. David's Tea House has branches on First Avenue in Caloocan and Tomas Mapua Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila.



TIMEZONE, the most popular family entertainment center in the country, is giving away two free simulator games that can be found in Pepsi 1.5-liter PET bottle labels. The ongoing promo, which ends on Oct. 31, is very easy to avail of. Just look under the labels of 1.5 Pepsi liters, bring the label and redeem free two games at any Timezone center in Metro Manila until Dec. 31. Timezone is located at the Glorietta 4 and 2, Greenbelt 3 and 1, Alabang Town Center Main and Cinemas, Greenhills, Ayala Center Cebu, Metropoint, Starmall and soon to open in SM Megamall.



A CREATIVE way to serve rice with prawns stir-fried with garlic crab roe



CRÊPES filled with crispy *sisig* accompanied with *pandan* chicken

Deadline for 'Lutong Bahay Originals' set

SHELLANE recently launched the "Lutong Bahay Originals 2002" Family Recipe Competition at the Holiday Inn Resort Clarkfield. The competition is Shellane's way of encouraging innovation and creativity in the traditional recipes of families. It aims to attract families to contribute an original recipe with a modern twist.

During the launch, Chef Rod of Holiday Inn demonstrated innovative recipes. Shellane culinary consultant Lydia Castillo explained the concept of the competition and annotated the demonstration of Chef Rod's recipes. Each item was prepared on Hanabishi stove while Lydia Castillo described each process. Afterward, the guests sampled the extraordinary concoctions prepared right before their eyes.

The classic chowder was prepared with San Fernando frogs, garden salad with sesame fried tilapia, garlic and crab roe prawn dish served with bringe rice, and crêpes filled with crispy *sisig* accompanied with *pandan* chicken. The desserts were *buko* and fruit cocktail in *gata*, and coconut ice cream served in crispy fried *lumpia* wrapper shell.

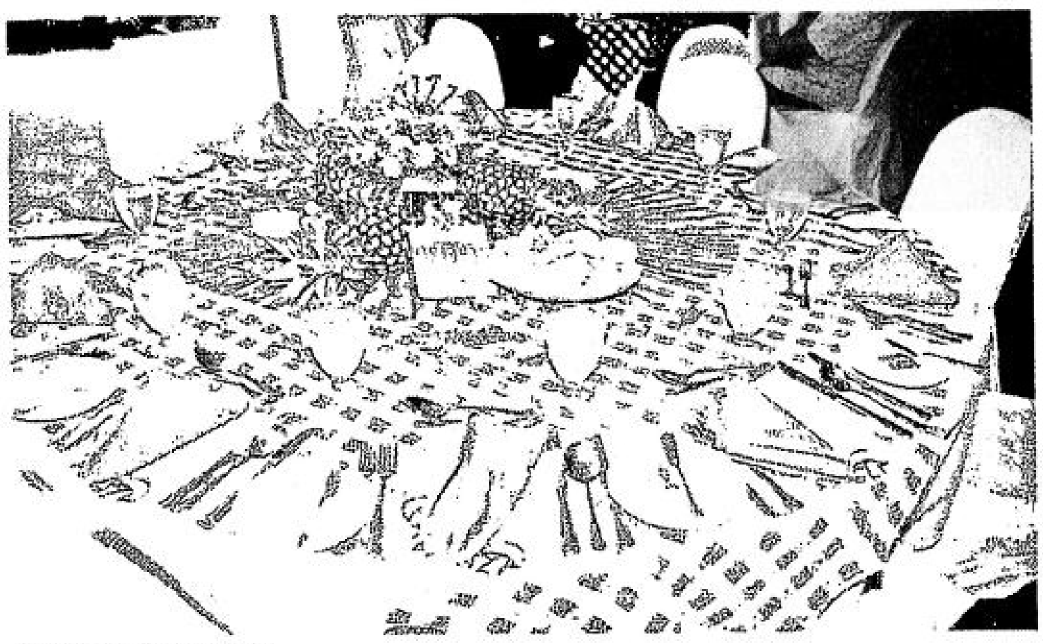
Applicants aged 15 and up, non-professional and residents of Pampanga, are qualified to join.

The three categories in the competition are: appetizer, main course and dessert. Each entry must be cooked using Shellane LPG. Each category shall have three prizes: first prize will win P15,000; second prize, P10,000; and third prize, P5,000.

The semifinals will be held on tomorrow, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Nepo Mart compound during the Tigtigan at Terakan.

The "Shellane Lutong Bahay Original 2002" has been accredited as an official activity of the Fiestang Kuliat of Angeles City.

Application forms can be obtained from Shellane dealers and recipes can be sent to Lydia Castillo, Shellane culinary consultant, at 25 A. Fabella St., Phase 3, BF Homes, Parañaque City. Fax to 825-2759 or e-mail prprofs@skyinet.net.



NATIVE table setting

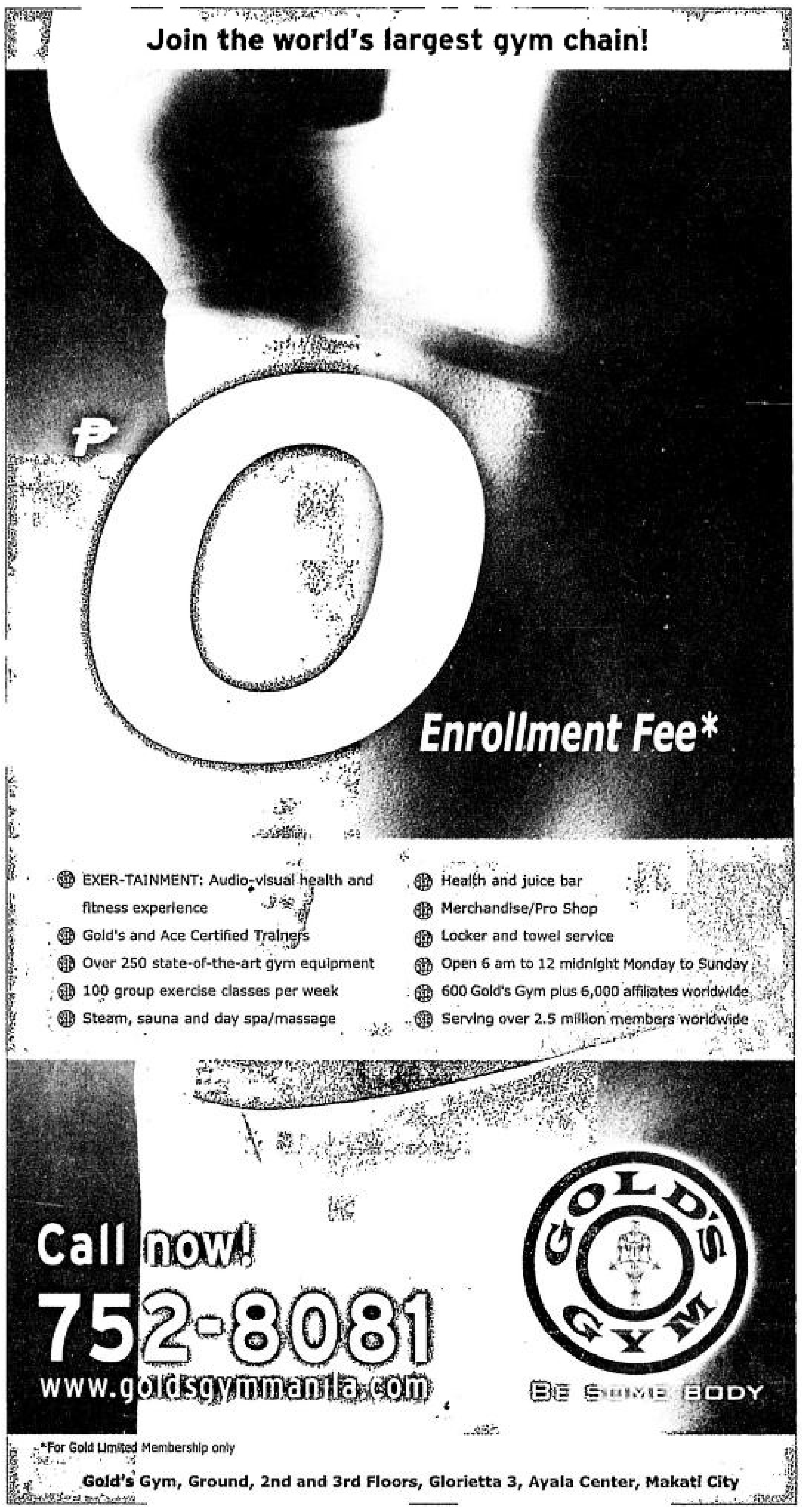
SHELLANE marketing manager Lawrence Gella listens to Ramona Ty as she presents the Tourism and Trade program for the first North Philippine Expo.

CHEF Rod prepares his innovation of the classic chowder using San Fernando frog's meat as ingredient. Culinary consultant Lydia Castillo describes the procedure.

RED Crab's Chiqui Eusebio (extreme right), Bridges@com's Toni Gregory (left), Shellane's Lawrence Gella and culinary consultant Lydia Castillo

Mega celebrity spotted at National Book Store!

‘Good little fish’ gets its own festival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Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

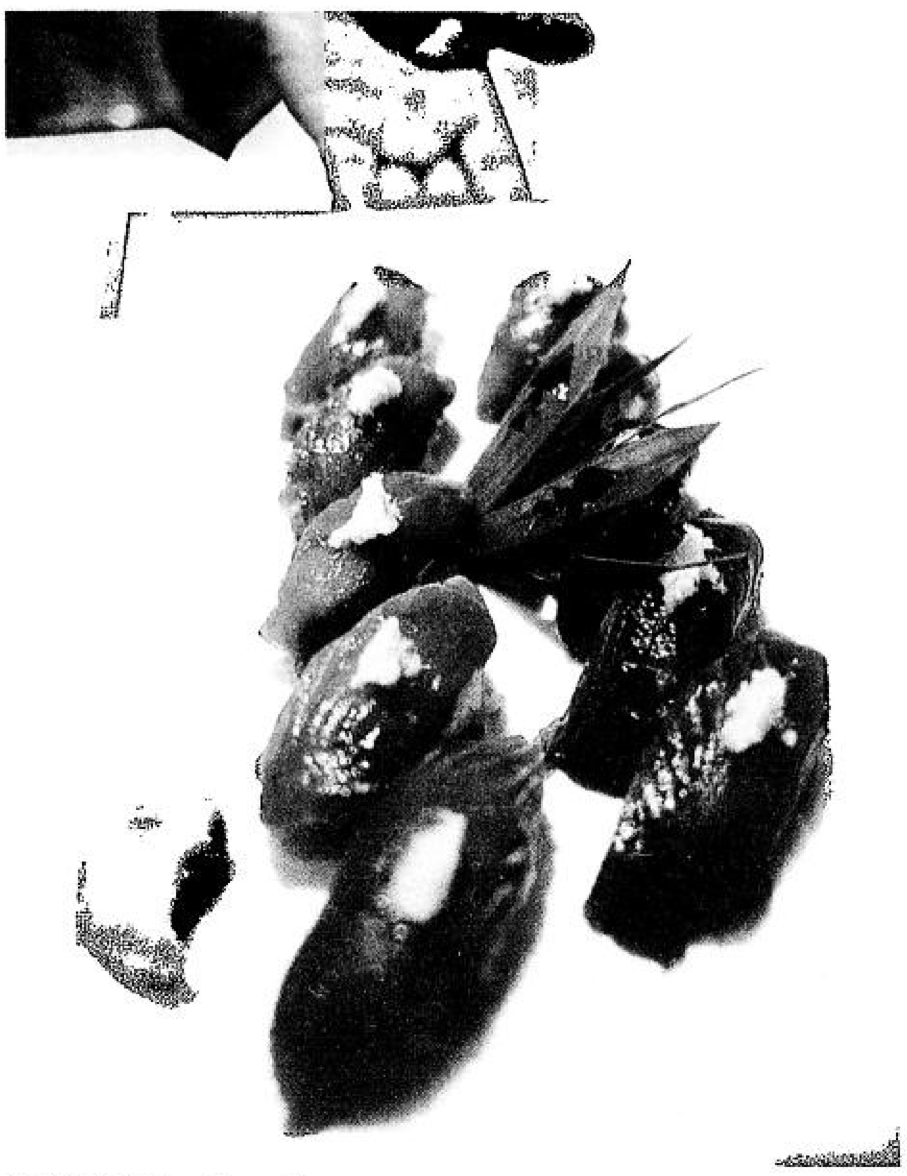
THE BONITO fish comes to the Inaho-Tei restaurant at Edsa Shangri-La this month. The “Modori Katsuo (Bonito Fish) Festival” runs until Oct. 31. What Japanese cuisine is known for—the delightful aroma and taste—often come from the Bonito fish. At first glance, you might think it's a block of stone or wood. However, closer inspection reveals dried bonito fish, an ingredient Japanese cooks wouldn't dare to be without. They use it to make stock for miso soup or stew, sauce for tempura or noodle dips, and more.

Widely considered a mackerel, bonito (in Spanish, the word is a diminutive for good) is actually classified as the smallest kind of tuna, rarely weighing over 25 pounds. It is easily identifiable by several dark spots that dot the belly and the wavy stripe on its dark blue back. Every spring, bonito fish migrate north, remain off the coast of Japan until fall, then return in the summer.

Bonito is popularly used dried and shaved into thin flakes called hanakatsuo. However, for the food festival at Inaho-Tei, Japanese chef Toshio Sato prepares the fish in a variety of sumptuous ways. Katsuo Zuke Sushi (Marinated Bonito Sushi) is plump and very tasty while Katsuo Tosazukuri, which is medium-grilled Bonito marinated in garlic, spring onion and ponzu sauce, is a lot like our local *kinilaw*, although the Japanese version is quite refreshing and very delicious. The chef will also make Harasu Shioyaki (grilled Bonito belly), Mentaiko (with cod fish roe), Misoshihiro (bonito miso soup), bonito salad and many other special dishes for lunch and dinner until the end of the month.

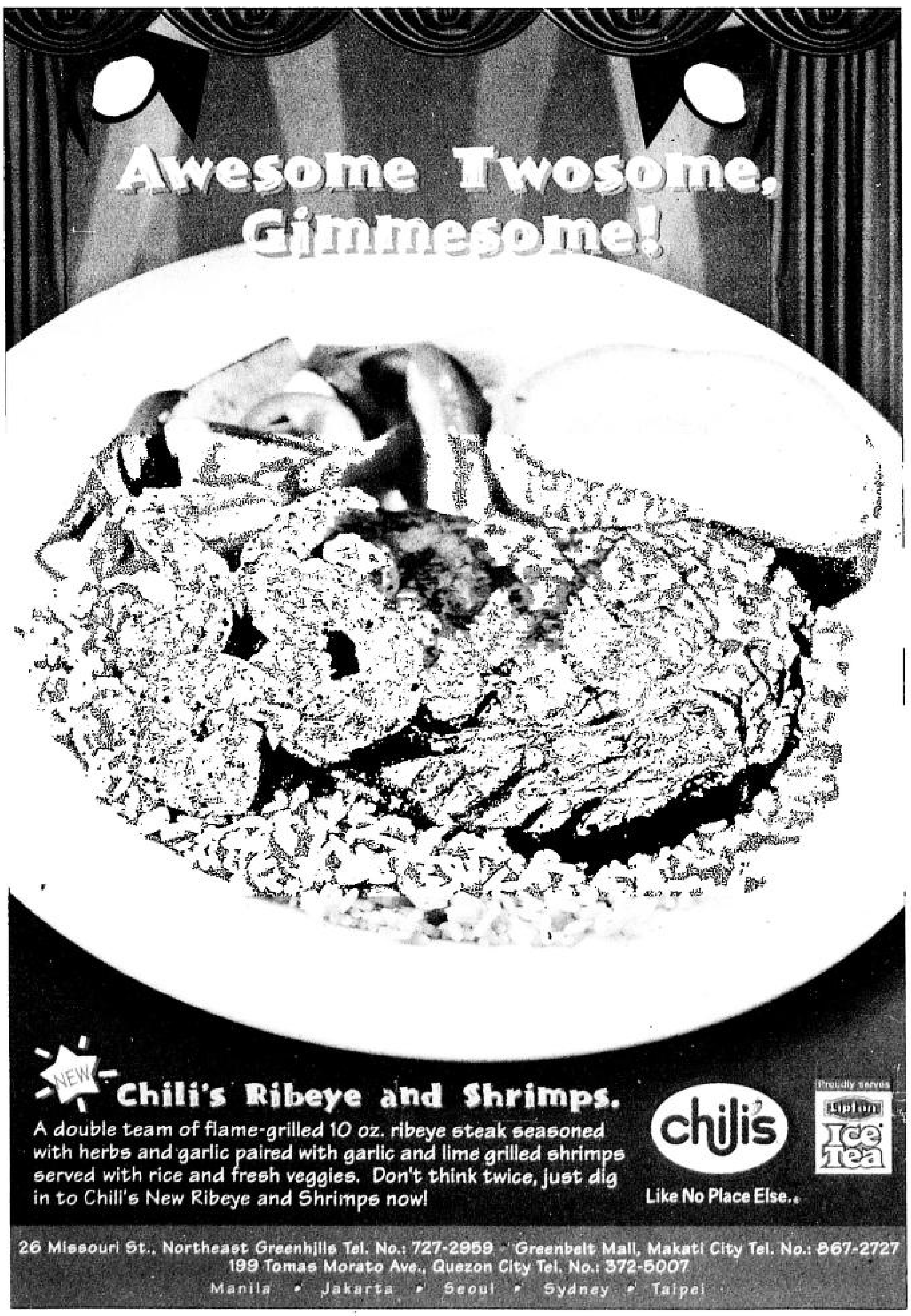
In the June 2001 issue of Nipponia, a Japanese Lifestyle magazine, Chikaishi Kazuhiko, the head chef at a prestigious Japanese restaurant called Aoyagi, puts bonito's place in Japanese cooking this way: “Dried bonito is the heart and soul of Japanese cuisine. Whenever we train a young chef, the first thing we do is show him how to use [the fish] properly.” It's difficult to imagine Japanese food without katsuo-bushi.

Inaho-Tei is located at the Mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-La Manila.


MARINATED bonito sushi

Dried bonito fish is a ‘must’ ingredient in Japanese cooking

MEDIUM-GRILLED bonito with garlic and ponzu sauce


Awesome Twosome, Gimmesome!

NEW
Chili's Ribeye and Shrimps.
A double team of flame-grilled 10 oz. ribeye steak seasoned with herbs and garlic paired with garlic and lime grilled shrimps served with rice and fresh veggies. Don't think twice, just dig in to Chili's New Ribeye and Shrimps now!

chili's
Like No Place Else..

Proudly serves Lipton Ice Tea

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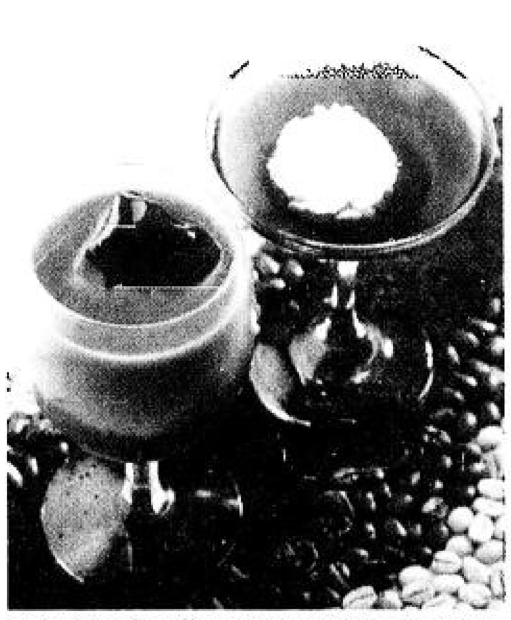
Wake up and smell the coffee

DID you know that coffee started out as food? In ancient times, the people of Abyssinia gathered the red berries and ate them.

Coffee eventually conquered Arabia and, despite the Arab's attempts to keep it a secret from other countries, managed to slip from their grasp and travel on to Europe. The infidel's copious consumption of coffee aroused the suspicion of the Catholic clergy who regarded it as an unfitting drink for Christians and condemned it as “the hellish black brew.” This prompted the wise Pope Clement VIII to bless and Christianize coffee, saying: “The coffee is so delicious it would be a pity to let the infidels have exclusive use of it.”

From Europe, coffee journeyed to the New World. Today, the world's coffee supply comes from South East Asia and South America.

One can reminisce about coffee's history and enjoy endless cups of this brew from the local variety, popularly called *barako*, at the Asian Ethnic Food Fest (AEFF) on Nov. 22-24 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. The festival is organized with the Department of Trade and Industry's International Coffee Organization and Certifying Agency and the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.


DELICIOUS coffee drinks will be available at the Asian Ethnic Food Fest' Coffee Festival

Call the AEFF Secretariat at 831-1282/2201 to -09 local 204 or 238, fax 832-3965, 834-0177, or e-mail agrimarine@citem.com.ph.

Malacañang says PEA board members must resign

Story on PAGE A3

Publishing house raided

GOVERNMENT agents swooped down last night on a publishing house owned by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay suspected of publishing four smut tabloids.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation raided the Sunny Publishing House located at No. 3 Boston St., Cubao, Quezon City.

The raiding team, led by Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida and head agent Sixto Comia, was armed with a search warrant issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 93 against the four

PUBLISHING/ A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, October 25, 2002 ★★ 76 pages / 6 sections / vol. 17 / no. 319 P15
website: www.inq7.net

'Bomb killer' developed

PARIS—A Bag-like bomb prevention device that a Paris-based company has developed may become part of the anti-terror kit of buses and shopping centers in Metro Manila and Zamboanga City.

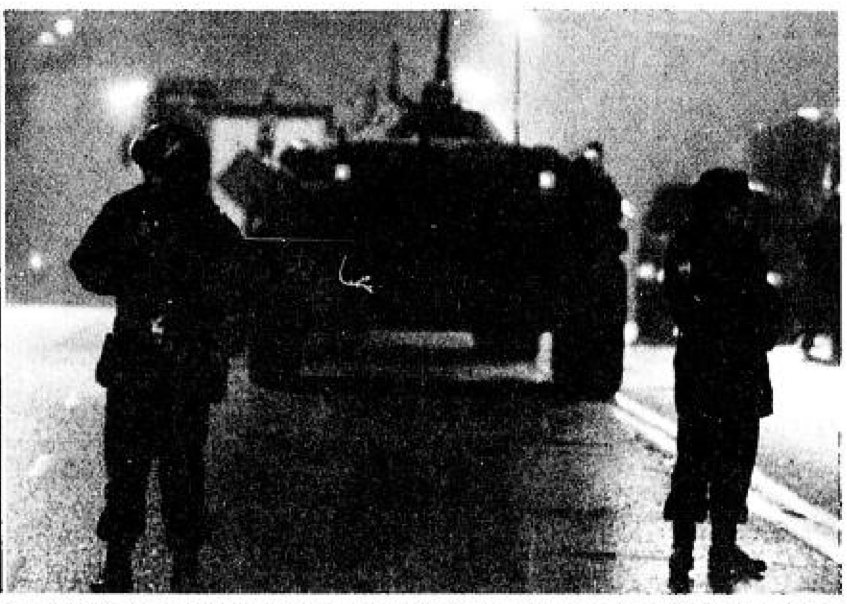
The "Ground Bomb Killer" or GBK requires no training because it

I'M NOT YOUR ORDINARY BAG

BOMB/ A19

Terror in Moscow: Chechen gunmen hold 600 hostages; kill 1

MOTHER and child are among a hundred hostages released by the hostage-takers who demand for Russian troops to leave the breakaway Chechnya republic in seven days. AFP



RUSSIAN troops in full battle gear and armed personnel carriers are parked near the Moscow theater which has a sitting capacity of 1,163. AFP

MOSCOW—The attack on a theater in the Russian capital of Moscow yesterday had been planned by "foreign terrorist centers" by the same people who staged recent terrorist attacks in Indonesia and the Philippines, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

One of the 600 hostages held by about 50 Chechen gunmen in the Moscow theater had been shot and killed, a news report said Thursday, and the hostage-takers broadcast warnings that all of them were ready to die for the cause of Chechnya's peace and independence.

A blanket-shrouded body, identified only as an unnamed woman, was wheeled out of the theater on a gurney into an an ambulance, television news footage showed. The ITAR-Tass news agency reported that police said the victim had been shot, but the Interfax news agency cited police as confirming only that a hostage had died.

Firing automatic weapons, the separatist rebels attacked the five-story theater in the

TERROR/ A18

'MILF coddling bomber'

GMA to Apec in Mexico to talk terror, not trade

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo left yesterday to attend the world's biggest annual trade conference involving heads of government—but the hostage crisis in Moscow all but ensured that she will find the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Summit in Mexico talking terrorism, not trade.

Senior government ministers from 21 countries, meeting ahead of their bosses, yesterday began taking up the most pressing topic that confronted them.

"This is a call for action," US Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said, citing the Bali bomb blast and a series of bombings in the Philippines.

"Terrorists will not wait for us to be ready before they attack again," he said. "A failure to act will cost even more, not only in potential lives lost but also in business losses."

The Moscow crisis cast Russian President Vladimir Putin's participation in doubt. Ms Macapagal was scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Putin, as well as Australian Prime Minister John Howard and New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark.

GMA/ A18

PRESIDENT Macapagal leaves Thursday afternoon for the gathering of the heads of economies at the Apec summit. ROGER MARGALLO

PNP intelligence claims Salamat himself protecting suspect

By TJ Burgonio and Fe Zamora

IT'S CONFIRMED.

Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, Philippine National Police director for intelligence, said that Muklis Yunos, a leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), was being hunted as the principal suspect in the bombing of a bus in Balintawak, Quezon City, on Friday that killed two people and wounded at least 20.

But the massive manhunt for Yunos and two Indonesian cohorts involving 60 percent of PNP intelligence personnel is encountering difficulty.

The reason: He is being coddled and protected by the leaders of the MILF.

"We've had difficulty arresting him because he (Yunos) is being hidden by no less than (MILF chair) Hashim Salamat," said an intelligence official, who asked not to be named.

On the other hand, an elite faction within the MILF has reportedly been sent to "liquidate" Yunos, who is seen by the MILF leadership as a "thorn" in their quest for a political settlement with the government, an intelli-

MILF/ A18

Hunted man links to blast in Zambo under probe

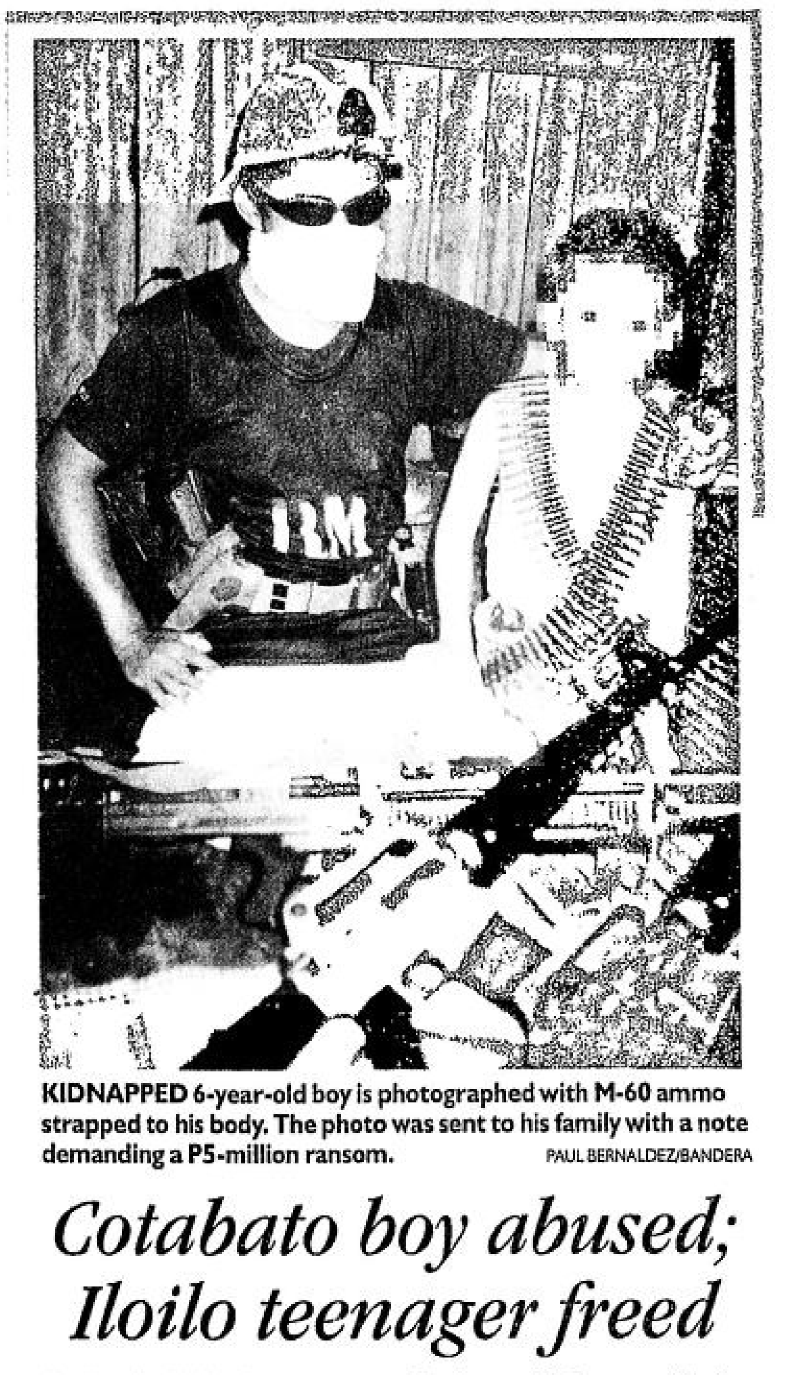
By TJ Burgonio

POLICE have yet to establish whether Muklis Yunos, prime suspect in last week's bombing of a bus in Quezon City, has links with the five suspected Abu Sayyaf members arrested Tuesday for their involvement in the spate of bombings in Zamboanga City, Chief Supt. Robert Delfin yesterday said.

Sources in the police and military intelligence community earlier said that Yunos and his accomplices, including two Indonesians, were behind the series of bombings in Metro Manila, Zamboanga City and Kidapawan that claimed the lives of 20 people and injured hundreds this month.

If Yunos had links to the bandit group, these could be through Mark Bolkerin Gumbahale, aide of slain Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, who was arrested in a Muslim community in Taguig on Oct. 17, an intelligence official said.

HUNTED/ A18



KIDNAPPED 6-year-old boy is photographed with M-60 ammo strapped to his body. The photo was sent to his family with a note demanding a P5-million ransom. PAUL BERNALDEZ/BANDERA

Filipinos hold key posts in JI

FILIPINOS occupy key positions in the Indonesian-based Islamic group Jemaah Islamiah (JI), which is believed behind the deadly bomb attack in the resort island of Bali, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said yesterday.

Domingo said the Philippine government had "reason to believe" that JI members and Abu Sayyaf bandits had "joined together to come up with a comprehensive plan of terrorism."

"I think it happened maybe in August," she told ABS-CBN television, but added that the Philippine government had yet to find evidence linking the bomb attack in Bali and the bombings in Zamboanga City.

Last Wednesday, the United States designated the JI a "foreign terrorist organization" under US law.

"The United States does not wish to imply that we have come to a conclusion about responsibility for the devastating Bali bombings on Oct. 12," US Secretary of State Colin Powell said in a statement.

But he said that the United

FILIPINOS/ A21

Moving South? Tell that to the Marines

By Dona Pazzibugan, Cynthia Balana and Martin Marfil

THE PRESIDENT'S plan to transfer the headquarters of the Philippine Marines to Mindanao came under fire yesterday—not the least from the Marine commandant himself.

"If that is the plan, we will request (higher-ups) to study the proposal further," Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia said in a radio interview. The Marine chief also hinted that the 9,000-man elite force was not consulted, saying that he thought the idea was a mere proposal.

In the Senate, a former Marine commandant and ex-Armed Forces chief, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, also asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to reconsider her "strange" plan to relocate not only the Marine headquarters but the Department of National Defense itself to Mindanao.

The Palace moved quickly to stem the damage, with Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao stressing that the transfer was not yet final.

"We are emphasizing that this is still under study," he told reporters.

In a separate interview, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the same thing.

MOVING/ A21

Cotabato boy abused; Iloilo teenager freed

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The family of a boy kidnapped two months ago is tormented by photos of him sent by his abductors, including one showing him holding a gun.

One of the three photos shows the 6-year-old, face anguished, a handgun in his right hand and an M-60 machine gun in front of him. Another shows him seated and eating, a fragmentation grenade and a .45 cal handgun beside him. The third shows him with a man in a bonnet, M-60 ammunition strapped to his body.

COTABATO/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/25/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

DOJ: Congress nod needed for nat'l ID

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez, the Cabinet's official legal counsel, admitted yesterday Malacañang could not just rely on an executive order to implement a national identification system.

"It cannot be done through an executive order, there must be legislation," Perez said.

Perez told reporters that a Supreme Court ruling during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos, who had supported the idea, clearly barred the Palace from issuing such an order without the concurrence of Congress.

Perez also took issue with National Security Adviser Roilo Golez for saying that instead of waiting for Congress to pass a law on a national ID, President Macapagal-Arroyo could do it through executive fiat.

Golez had also said the President's EO would require anyone who wants to transact business with government agencies to have a government-issued ID.

But yesterday, Perez said: "There is no executive order to be issued on this matter because the Supreme Court (has said) it can't be done through (an) administrative process but through the legislature."

The Palace on Wednesday announced the implementation of a national ID system, to be made obligatory for all Filipinos.

Golez said the ID would be used mainly to transact business with the government. He said there would be no violation if one did not have a national ID.

But, "Secretary Golez's line that 'no one can live without transacting with the government' means that everyone will be forced to have an ID and those who do not will be deemed as suspicious characters," said Robert de Castro, deputy secretary general of Bayan Muna, one of the militant groups opposed to a national ID.

"The EO (would be) a complete and direct blackmail against the Filipino people," said Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

Mariano warned the EO could be a prelude to martial law.

But Interior Secretary Jose Lina said the proposed "No ID, no government service" policy was not anti-poor.

"Of course not," said Lina, when asked by the INQUIRER if the policy would discriminate against the poor, many of whom cannot afford IDs and who deal only in the underground economy.

But Lina, who was interviewed in Magalang, Pampanga where he inaugurated a building at the Central Luzon Drug Rehabilitation Center, did say a national ID system would be compulsory.

"We are all part of the government so we have to follow rules and regulations issued by the government," Lina said.

He said a national ID system was enjoying "emerging" support from legislators and local government executives, who were "generally in favor" of it.

But senators showed they were divided on the issue.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said that while she was in favor of a national ID system provided it did not invade one's privacy, Malacañang's shortcut by issuing an EO was unacceptable.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said an ID should not be a requirement before one could obtain essential public services or documents.

No collusion, only lapses in Lamitan, solons report

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE MILITARY was guilty only of "serious tactical lapses" and a failure of intelligence when it allowed the cornered Abu Sayyaf terror group to escape from a Lamitan, Basilan hospital on June 3 last year.

This was the finding of the House committee on defense which released its report on the incident yesterday that was signed by 73 of its 92 members.

The committee said it found no evidence the military had colluded with the Abu Sayyaf to allow the terrorists to escape from the surrounded Dr. Jose Ma. Torres Memorial Hospital with most of their hostages for monetary consideration.

Although the committee said it was convinced some hostages had paid ransom to the Abu Sayyaf, it did not find "direct evidence to link" the military to the negotiations.

But the committee did recommend that former Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez of the First Infantry Division and head of Task Force Comet be investigated by the Deputy Ombudsman for the military and a military board of inquiry.

Villanueva has since retired and is now acting general manager of another scandal-plagued agency, the Public Estates Authority.

The two generals were held responsible for the major tactical lapse—the "countermanding" of an order for troop reinforcements issued by Col. Jovenal Narcise of the 103rd Army Brigade at the height of the siege.

The committee, headed by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., also recommended that Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar be subjected to a "no-nonsense investigation" by the National Bureau of Investigation for suspected involvement with the Abu Sayyaf.

The committee also recommended that Sen. Sergio Osmeña III "be asked to disclose any information he may possess that would shed light on allegations that several AFP officers had profited from ransom payments made to the Abu Sayyaf Group."

The committee also asked that Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, whose Scout Ranger Class 142 from Bulacan responded to the siege in Basilan, be accorded military honors.

The committee cited several circumstances that prompted suspicions of collusion between the military and the ASG.

These were the lull in the fighting when hostage businessman Reghis Romero, his companion Rissa Santos and nine-year-old RJ Recio were released; the failure of the 55th Infantry Battalion to reinforce the troops surrounding the hospital; the pullout of the soldiers guarding the back of the hospital where the Abu Sayyaf escaped, and the deployment of 55th IB troops far from the compound's exit.

Despite these, the committee said it did not find "enough evidence" to pin the military for collusion.

Publishing . . .

From page A1

tabloids—Toro, Bosero, Toro 2nayt and Bosero 2nayt.

The team forcibly entered the building housing the printing press and the publication office at 8 p.m.

Nabbed during the raid were encoders, writers, layout artists, strippers, printing press employees, among others.

Calida said that those arrested will be charged with violation of Article 201 of the Revised Penal Code, which prohibits the publication and sale of obscene articles.

Calida also said that the publisher, Sunny Mallari, and the entire editorial staff will be charged.

"The raid came after several students tipped off the DOJ's action center of the existence of the printing house. I immediately ordered the NBI to conduct surveillance operation which resulted in tonight's raid," Calida said. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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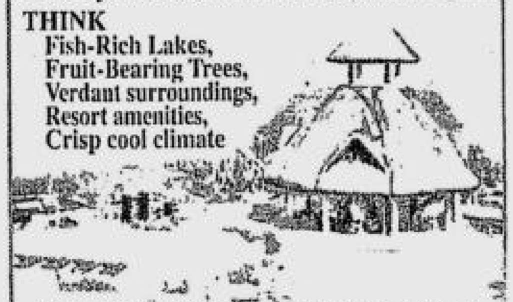

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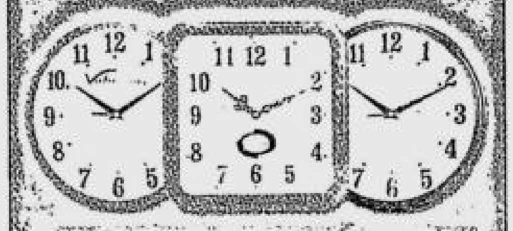

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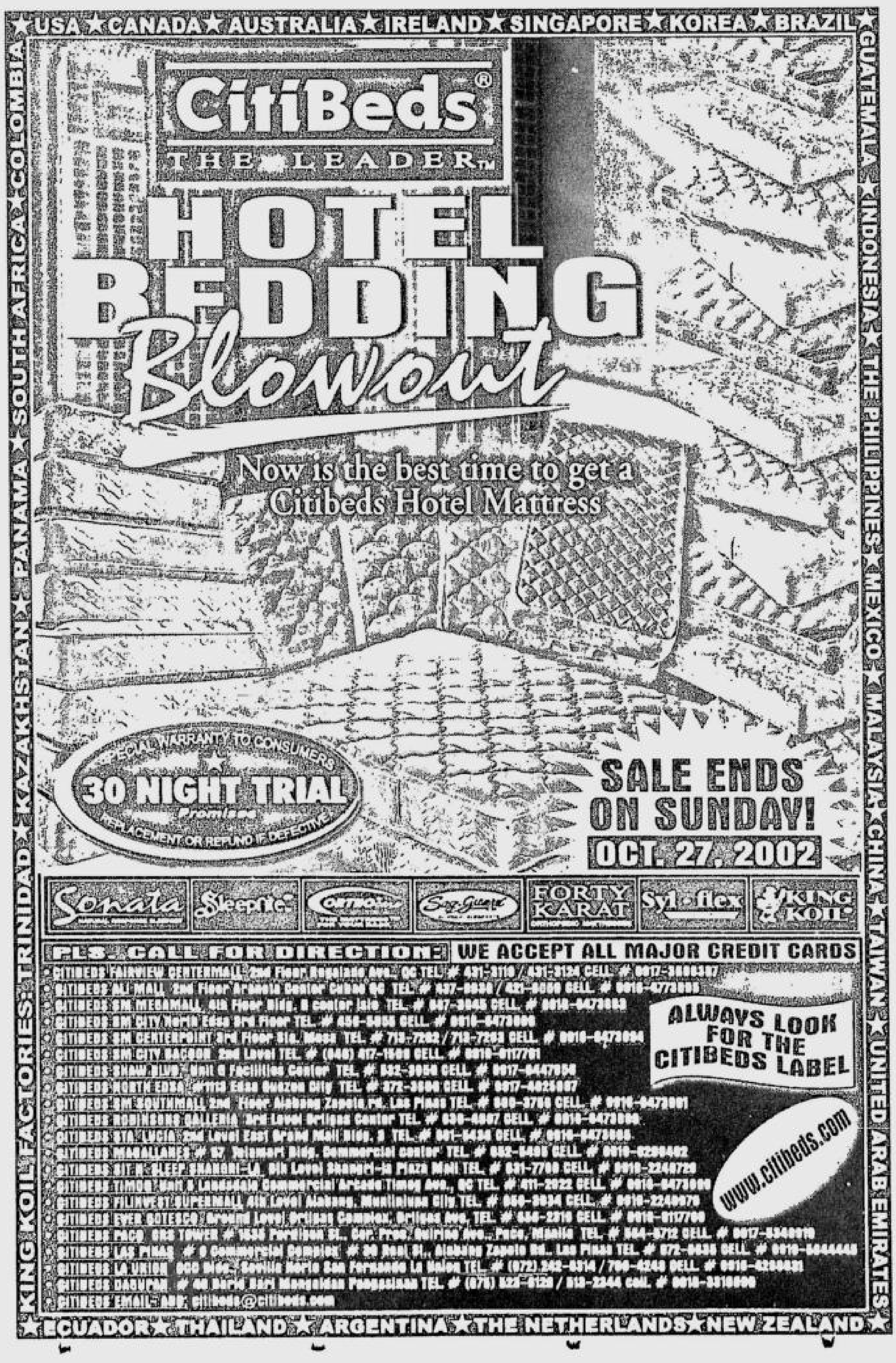

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Palace: PEA execs have to resign

By Carlito Pablo

THEY have no choice but to resign.

Malacañang made it clear yesterday to the directors of the Public Estates Authority, who have refused to heed President Macapagal-Arroyo's "request" for them to quit pending investigation of the alleged P600 million overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

"The PEA directors are all appointees of the President," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said. "They very well know their position."

Tiglao said that "the President has reserved judgment on their guilt but for delicadeza, she asked them to resign."

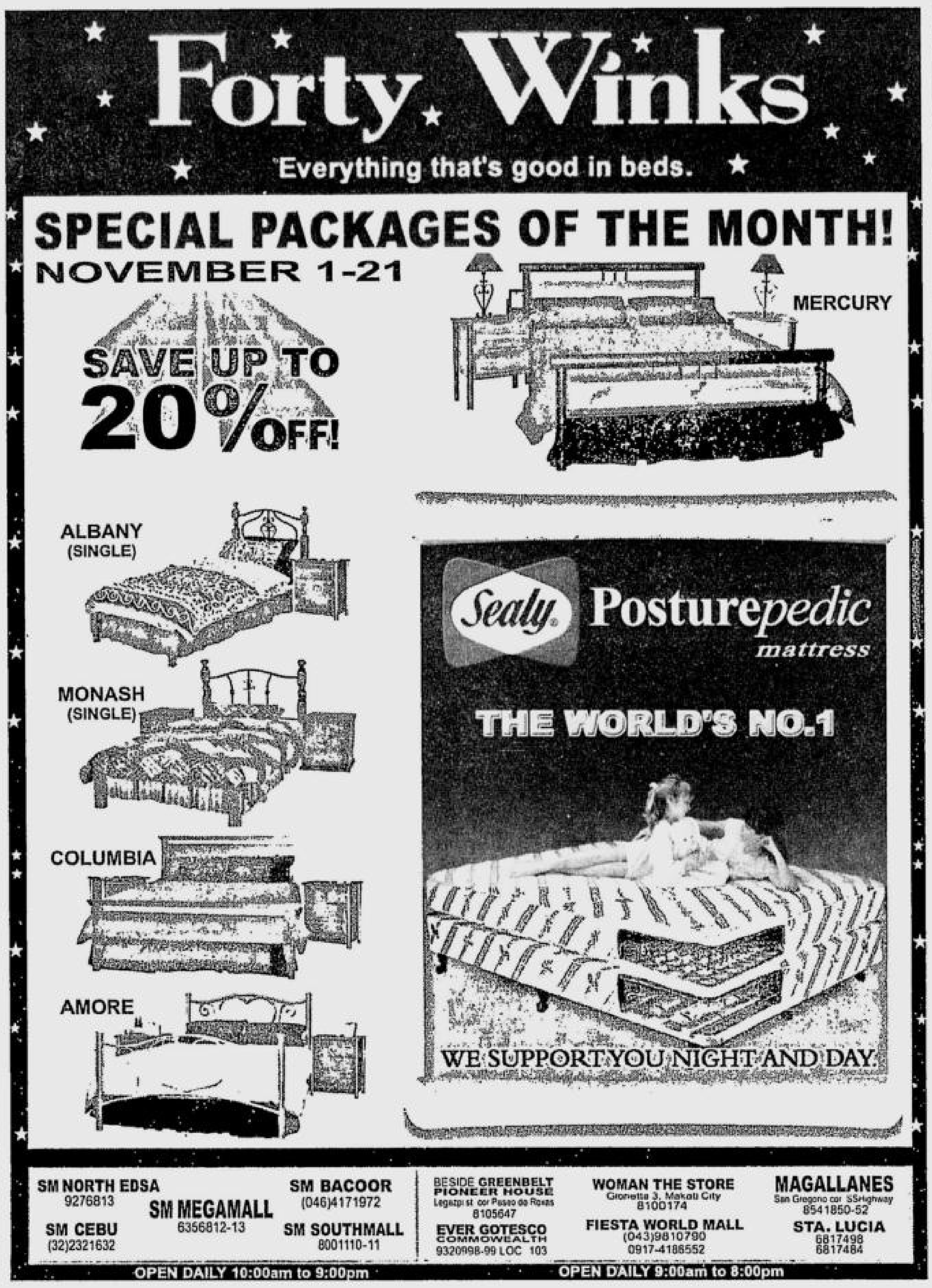
"I think they have to comply to that request by the President," Tiglao said.

Apparently speaking for his colleagues at the PEA board, director Rodolfo Tuazon said that they want first to clear their names as their resignations may imply admission of guilt.

Tuazon also said that since they have gone on leave, the PEA cannot influence the investigation being undertaken by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Tiglao did not indicate whether the President's resignation call applies also to PEA director Sulficio Tagud Jr., the whistle-blower on the alleged scam.

Tagud promptly offered to go on leave when the alleged overpricing was reported in media.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UP FOR SENATE DEBATE

Joker backs Meralco 'mega-franchise'

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SENATE committee on public services yesterday endorsed for Senate approval of a "mega-franchise" of the Manila Electric Co. which was a consolidation of its 50 franchises in Luzon.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the committee, submitted for plenary debate the concurrence given by his committee.

But the period of interpellation was suspended until Nov. 11 because of the two-week Senate break which will start today.

Arroyo recommended the Senate approval of Committee Report No. 91 despite the allegation of former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile in two Senate hearings that Meralco and its sister company, First Gas, had conspired to charge their customers P14 billion in electricity which they did not deliver from December 2000 to January 2002.

Enrile said that First Gas Power collected an average of P1 billion a month even if its 1000 megawatt-Sta. Rita plant was not operational.

He said that Meralco passed on the anomalous charges to its customers, resulting in the padding of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) by P0.56 per kilowatt-hour.

He urged Congress not to grant the franchise of Meralco because of its overcharging schemes. He said these charges were contained in the PPA computations that Meralco filed every month with the Energy Regulatory Commission.

If at all, Enrile said, the francise should not be consolidated and the smaller franchises should be auctioned to other utility firms.

Arroyo said the committee carefully considered Enrile's allegations and found these to be "very valid and good."

However, he said, the committee has no choice but to submit it to the Senate plenary because 11 of the 14 committee members already signed it. Of the 11, two senators abstained.

Meralco will celebrate its 100th year of service next year.

Its first franchise was granted by Congress in 1903 for 50 years; in 1953 in 20 years; and in 1973 for 30 years, which will end next year.

Arroyo said another consideration for the endorsement of the franchise for another 30 years was the fact that there was no taker at all.

"The other reason that the committee had to consider was that if a franchise would not be given, what would be the alternative?"

He said the main consideration was that no one else applied for the franchise.

He said a government takeover would not also be possible since the government was privatizing its assets.

Also, the Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Power Corp. and other agencies of the government concerned found nothing wrong with the franchise application, Arroyo added.

'Sweetheart' deal behind high power rate–Enrile

THE ONLY way to reduce purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges and cut the electric bills of consumers is for Meralco to end its "exploitative and scandalous sweetheart deals" with its sister company First Gas Power.

Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile made this assertion yesterday as he maintained that Meralco's denials that it was overcharging consumers would not reduce the PPA charges imposed on consumers.

Pressing his attack on the giant utility firm, Enrile cited what he called an anomalous deal between Meralco and its sister company involving an overprice amounting to $246 million or P12.8 billion in transmission line charges over 25 years for the Sta. Rita transmission line in Batangas.

Enrile explained that the transmission line charge of $1.42 million per month is a concrete example of how "sweetheart deals" can unconscionably bleed Meralco's consumers to death.

The bottom line is First Gas Power and Meralco are charging consumers $1.42 million per month or a total of $426 million for a transmission line that only costs $35 million to construct, Enrile said.

He pointed out that the fair charge for this should not be more than $600,000 per month including interest, operation and maintenance costs.

Clearly, Enrile said, there is an overprice of $246 million or P12. 8 billion over a 25-year period.

First Gas: P5B in profits on 1st year alone

IN JUST one year of operation, First Gas Power accumulated billions of pesos in profits, making it one of the country's most profitable companies, according to former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

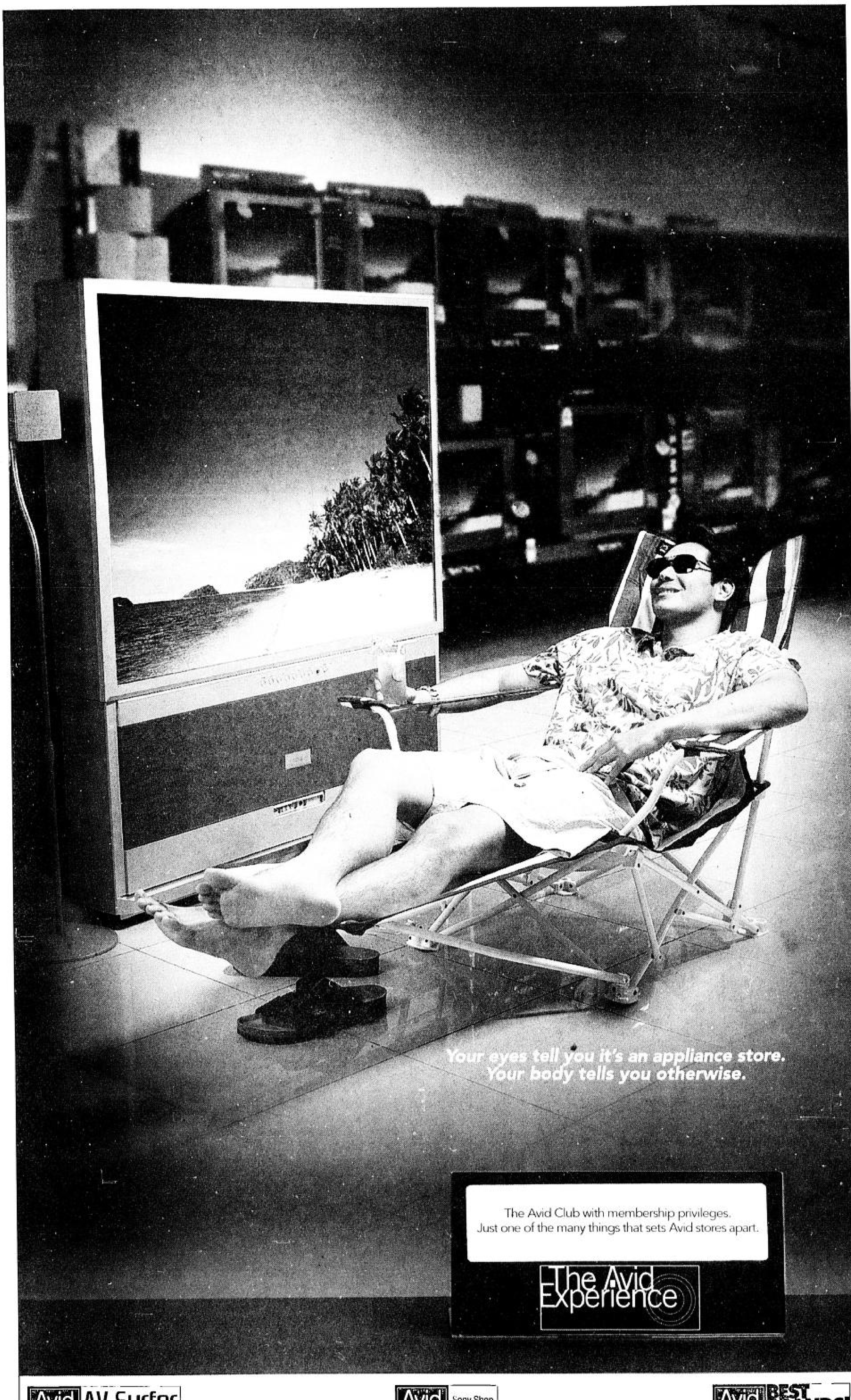
Citing financial reports, Enrile said the "from nowhere," First Gas jumped to No. 6 on the list of the country's most profitable companies, thanks to largely to Meralco consumers.

According to Enrile:

- First Gas reported revenues of P13.1 billion.
- It earned a net income of P4.9 billion or a whooping 37.4 percent in net profit, beating long established top 1,000 companies like Citibank, Globe Telecom, Nestlé, PLDT, SM Prime Holdings, Shell and Procter and Gamble.
- Its mother company, First Gas Holdings netted P4.8 billion.'
- First Gas Power was so profitable in its first 18 months alone that it paid a cash dividend to its stockholders of P6.14 billion which is 78.5 percent of their original paid-up capital of P7.82 billion.
- First Gas Power made an annual return equivalent to 52 percent of their investent. This means that it will recover its equity investment in Sta. Rita in two years.

In 2001, First Gas Power's revenues from Meralco was P1.127 billion, Enrile said. "Even if we grant First Gas president Peter Garrucho's claim that the firm produced and delivered 952 million kwh of electricity in 2001, it still resulted in their charging Meralco consumers an average of P13.79 per kwh. "Now, is that cheap electricity?" Enrile said.

"No wonder Napocor is bankrupt, and First Gas Power, which supplies only 20 percent of Meralco's power, is raking in a net income of 37.4 percent and a return on equity of 52 percent every year," Enrile said.



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'IT'S NOT HIM WE'RE AFTER'

Foreign retirees change tune on Ang

By B.S. Rivera

THE GROUP of foreign retirees running after a bank chaired by the President's adviser on publicity Dante Ang backpedaled yesterday and said Ang was not to blame for their inability to access their deposits at BankWise.

The Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association (Prama) Foundation said the group had included Ang in its complaint to the National Bureau of Investigation only so he could explain why the bank was refusing to allow access to the retirees' deposits amounting to some P16.8 million.

Prama accountant and finance officer Rica Mipaña said the foundation merely wanted to officially hear from Ang himself, after he was cited by BankWise officials as one of the reasons they could not free up Prama's accounts.

"It's not Dante Ang we're after. What we want is for him to investigate the bank's officials," Mipaña told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

She charged that BankWise officials, particularly Vic Campa and Lazaro Madara, had been using Ang's entry into BankWise as "an excuse not to release Prama's funds," saying they had to speak with Ang first.

Ang's help

Prama has accused BankWise officials of withdrawing and diverting the retirees' deposits to Seed Capital Inc., a firm owned by Roberto Guevarra which now owns 60 percent of BankWise.

Mipaña said Prama could use Ang's help to get its peso and dollar deposits back. Ang recently bought into the bank, a move that drew widespread criticism and questions about his wherewithal to pay for the transaction.

But Ang clarified that he only bought a small percentage of the bank with payments stretched over several years.

Prama has filed complaints before the NBI and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas over the fund mess at BankWise.

The Bureau of Immigration later arrested and detained Prama president Ramon Collado, a Spanish lawyer, triggering speculation his arrest was a form of harassment by Ang.

Mipaña said reports blaming Ang for Collado's arrest were "wrong" as it was another government agency that had sought the Spaniard's apprehension—the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority which is involved in its own fund mess with Prama.

The PLRA had told the BI that Collado, who has a special retiree's visa, was working at Prama as its president without a permit.

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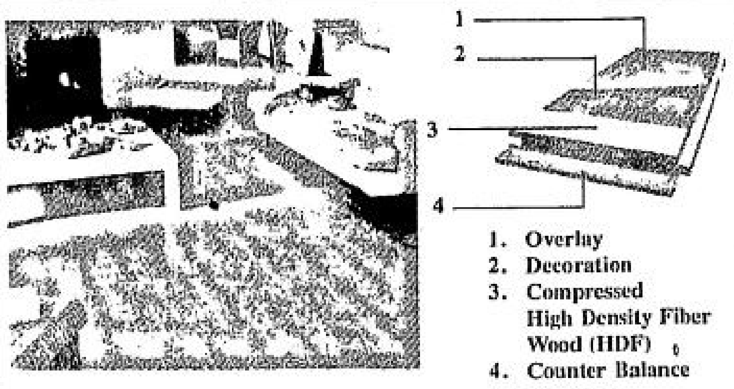

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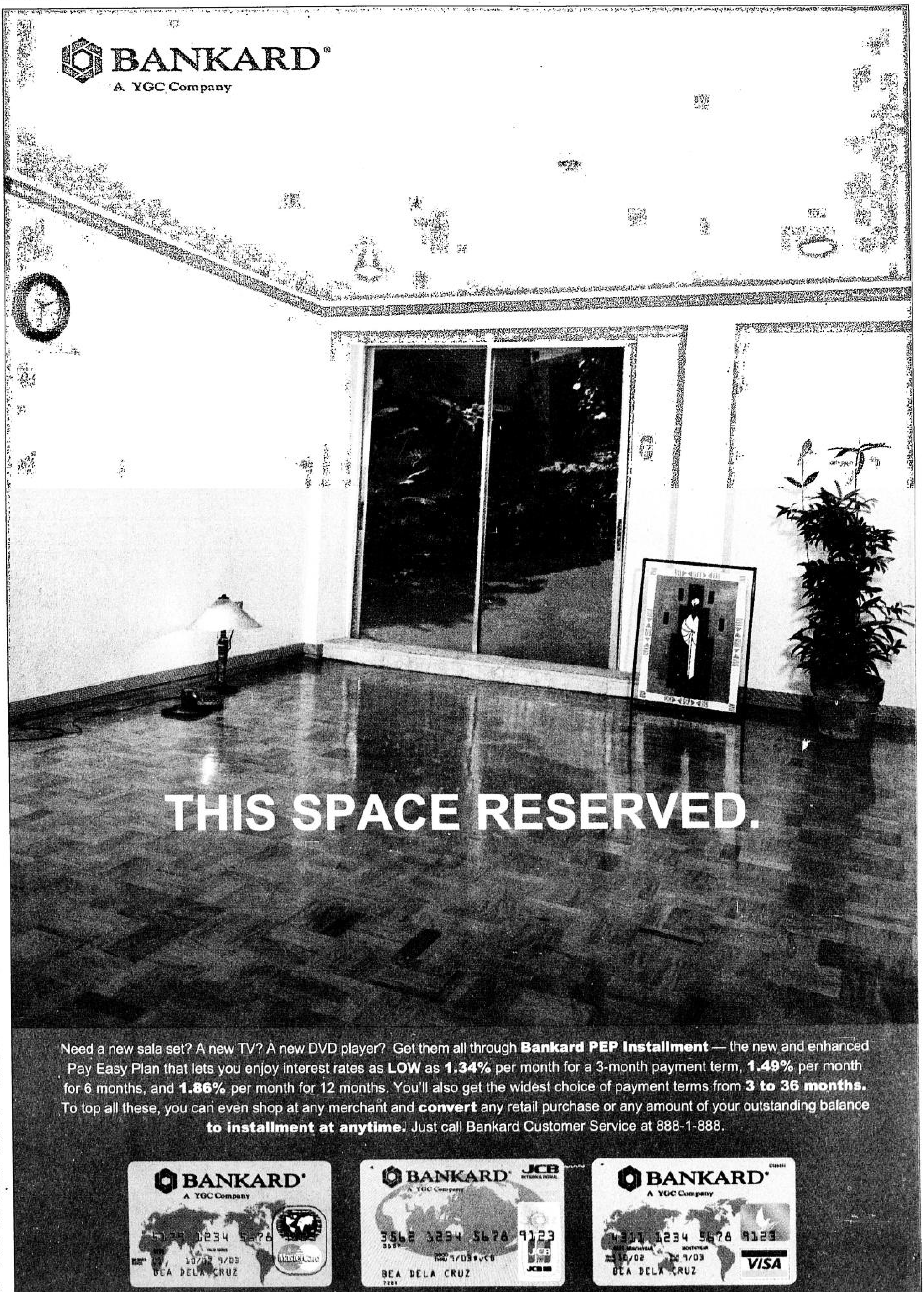

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Travel to parts of Mindanao risky, US tells Americans

WASHINGTON—The US government on Wednesday warned US citizens to avoid traveling in some areas of the Philippines, in the wake of ongoing bomb attacks, and attacks against Americans.

"Kidnappings, bombings, and other violence and criminal activity," prompted the State Department to warn against all travel to the central, southern and western areas of Mindano, including Zamboanga City and General Santos City.

"US citizens should also avoid travel to the islands of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, and Jolo" in the Sulu archipelago, the department said in a statement.

Residents of those places were advised to "carefully review their security posture, (and) take appropriate action to secure their well-being."

Resident US officials and contractors have all been withdrawn from these areas, it said.

"A number of security-related incidents highlight the risks of travel in the Philippines," it said, underlined events such as bomb-related incidents in Manila and suburbs, including the bombing of a bus Oct. 18 that left two dead. *AFP*

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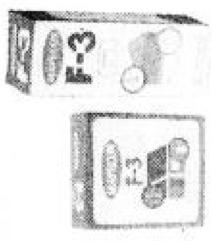

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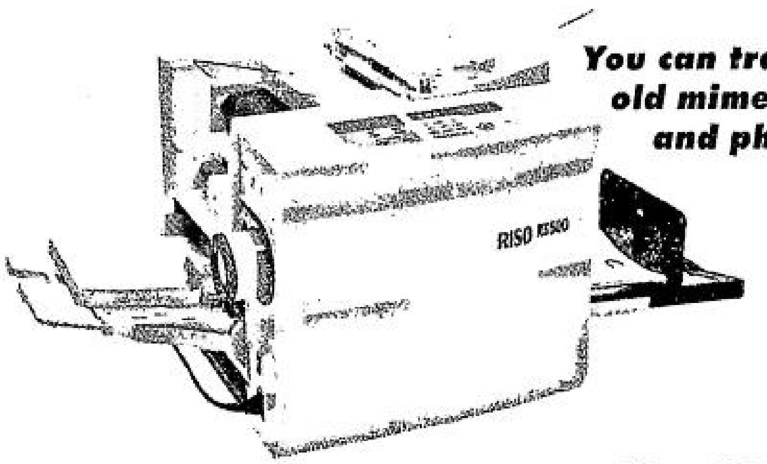

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YOU leader now a fugitive for Cervantes slay

By C.V. Esguerra

A RANKING police officer tagged as the mastermind in the killing of Baron Cervantes, self-styled Young Officers Union spokesperson, remains on the lam despite an arrest warrant issued for him in the case.

Supt. Rafael Cardeno, YOU chair, defied the arrest order and snubbed yesterday's arraignment of the case at the Las Piñas City Regional Trial Court.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane to put up a reward for the arrest of Cardeno.

Cardeno was implicated in last New Year's Eve killing of Cervantes in front of a Las Piñas convenience store by the other suspects arrested in the case—Joseph Mostrales, Erlindo Torres and Jaime Centeno.

The three, however, pleaded not guilty to the killing.

But the three had executed separate affidavits saying they were hired by Cardeno to liquidate Cervantes.

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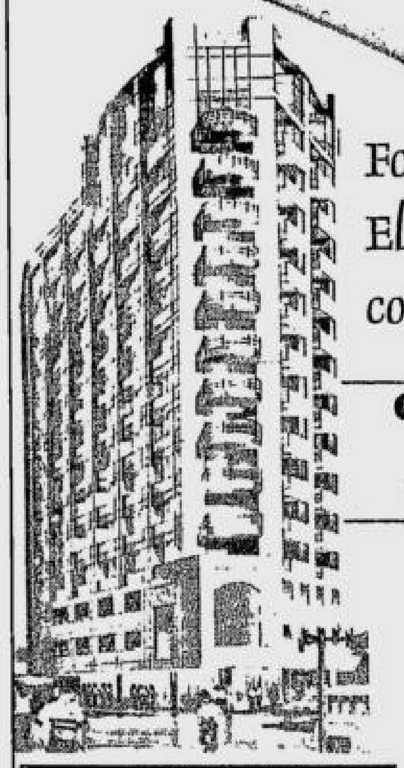

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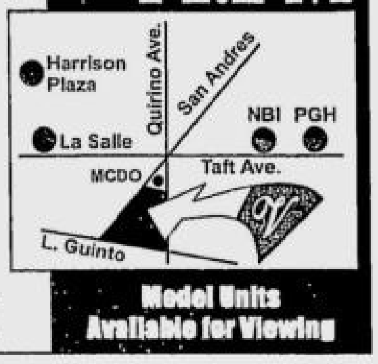

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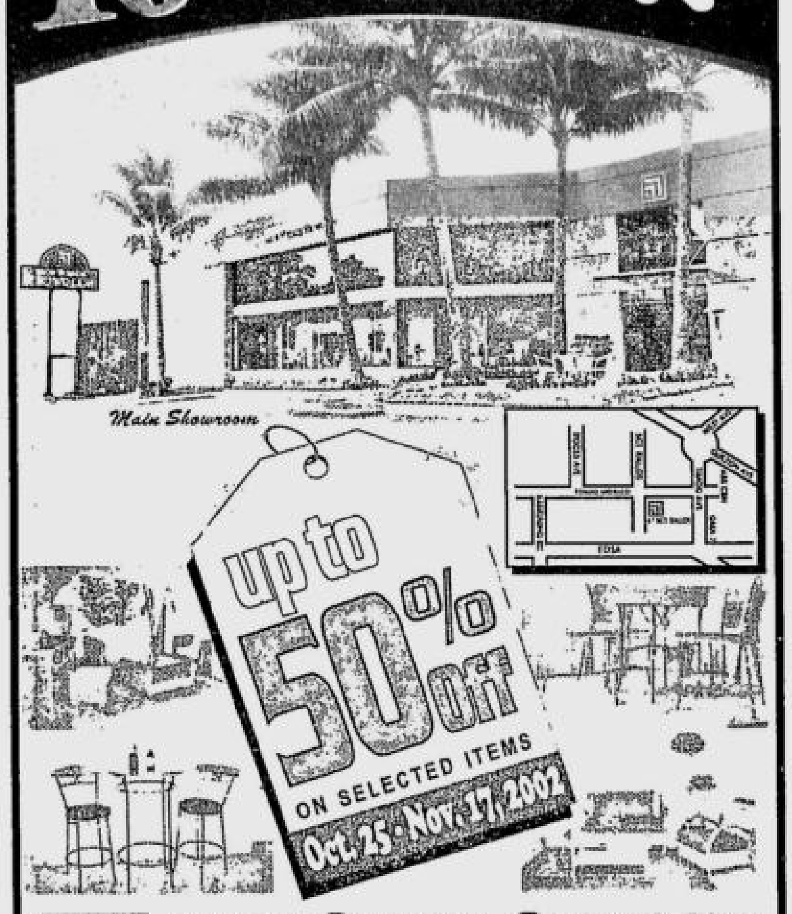

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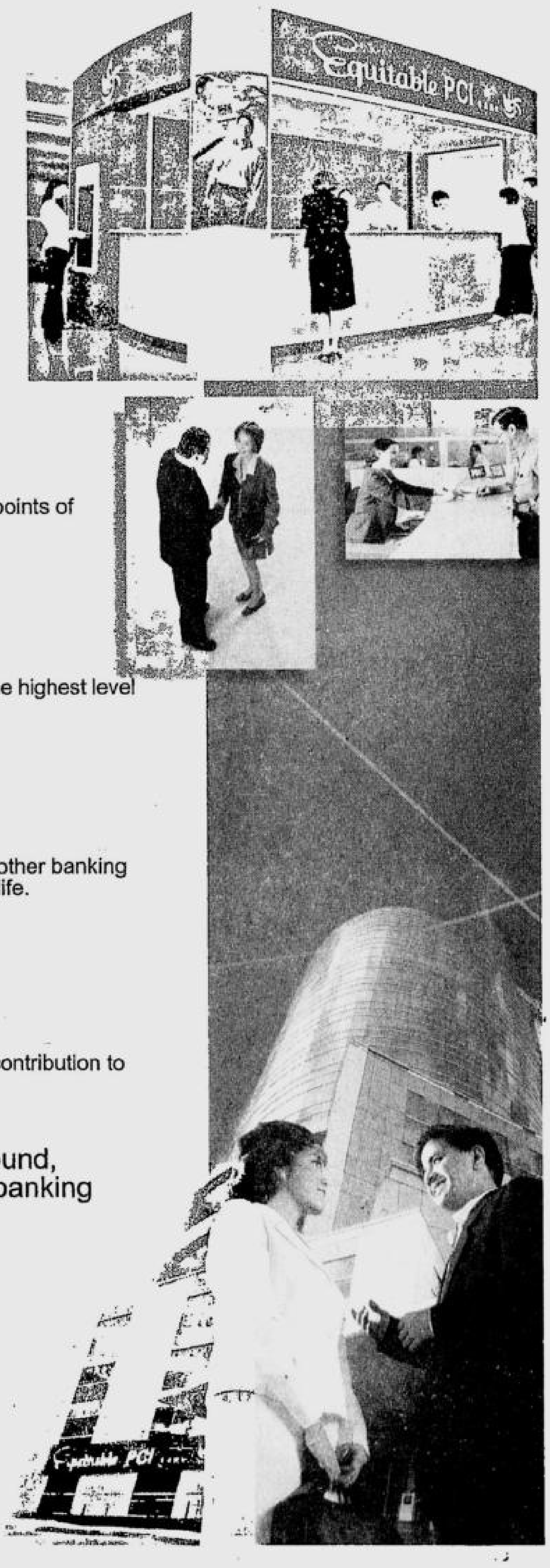

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2002

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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OPINION

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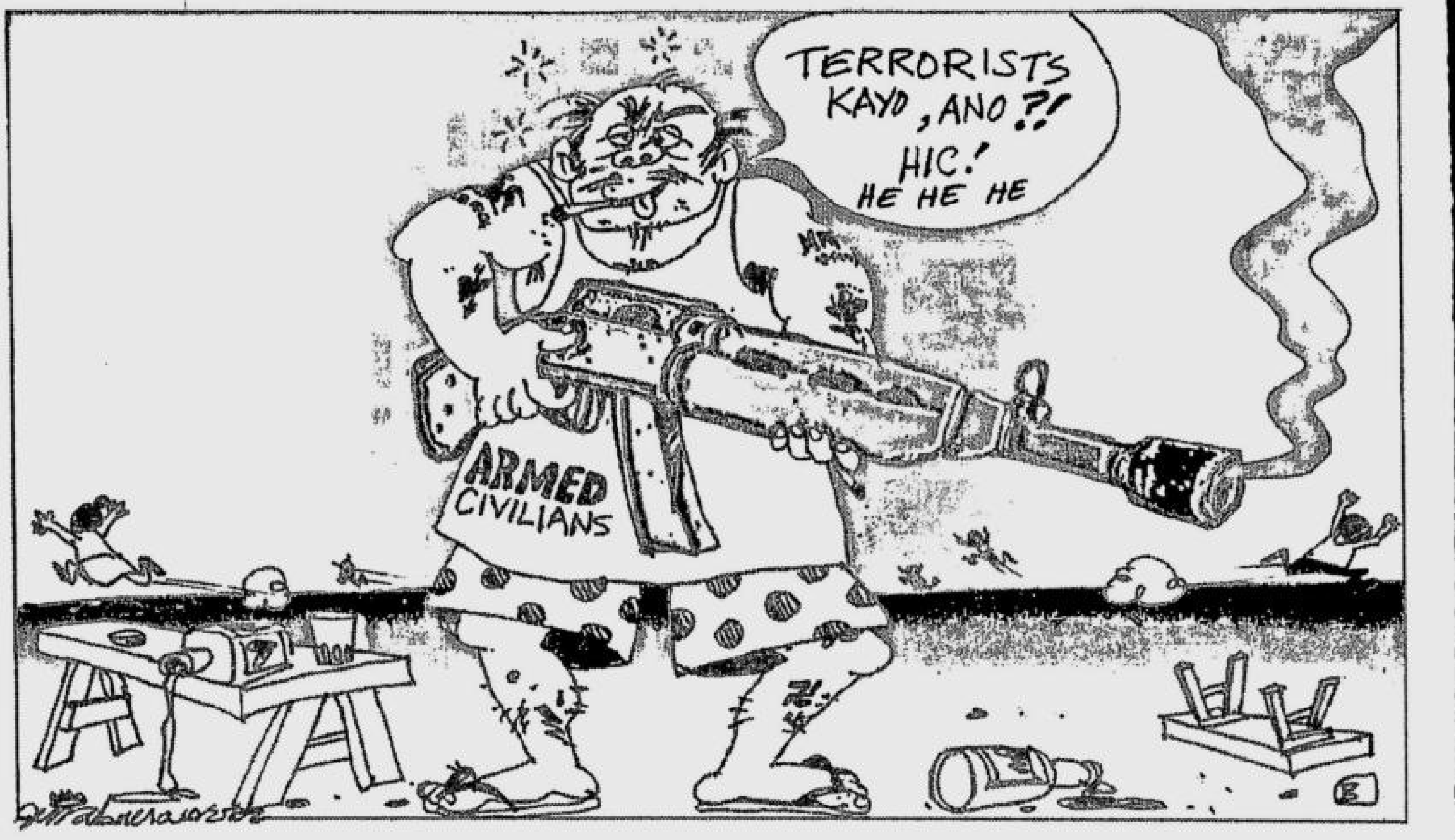

TERRORISTS KAYO, ANO ?!
HIC!
HE HE HE
ARMED CIVILIANS

EDITORIALS

Heritage care

IT seems ironic that so much Filipino cultural heritage is packed in a small painting titled "Parisian Life," but that must be the case if it's a Juan Luna. That—and the fact that the subtle canvas showing a French mademoiselle in the foreground contains curious figures in the background—of Jose Rizal, Katipunan supporter Ariston Bautista Lin and Luna himself.

Christie's will auction off the painting on Sunday in Hong Kong, and the venerable British auction house provides the next irony when it says in its catalogue that the picture purports to show the "last gathering of great Filipinos on the eve of momentous events." Why patriots should be so portrayed in the languor of a Parisian café is intriguing. But the portrait is richly expressive in hindsight if one considers that the work, painted in 1892, represents perhaps the last gathering on record of the Filipino expatriate community in Europe before its members set back for the Philippines to play their roles in the revolution against Spain. The languor before the storm.

The quiet but exquisite beauty of the painting, plus its dire historical importance, should behoove authorities to stop its sale. The government has enough powers administratively, legislatively and judicially to apply in this case. Presidential Decree 374, the Cultural Properties Preservation Act, can be invoked to designate the painting as a national cultural treasure. Although the work is in private hands, as most Lunas are on these islands, it should form part of the national cultural patrimony and must not be bid out to foreigners.

Of course, it is a mystery how the painting got out of the country and into Hong Kong with nary a protest from pot-bellied customs officers who otherwise would raise a hue and cry over the entry of cheap radio and electronic equipment hand-carried by Filipino OCWs, and even relief goods and hospital apparatus for the sick and the needy. The fact that even the wife of the finance secretary, to whose department the Bureau of Customs is attached, failed to stop the shipment shows much about the traffic there: everything out and nothing in (except for a stiff tariff, most of it going to private pockets). No wonder the bureau fails to raise enough revenues for the state. The case also shows the level of artistic appreciation in customs.

But perhaps the biggest blame must be pinned on our cultural regime that has failed to implement the law. Nearly 30 years after the enactment of PD 374, the National Museum has not convened a panel of experts to determine the country's national treasures. It is doubtful if it has even called for a registration of significant works in private hands. All it has convened is a committee of supposed experts to check forgery. But even that has not been enough to stop fake works from circulation, even offered for bidding in auction houses abroad.

As always we eat our words. The Luna incident is just one among many cases in which cultural patrimony has escaped the nation's protection and care. This is perhaps the final irony: a nation that is overly proud and sensitive of its cultural identity and heritage has been exposed as a fake by the commercial auction houses of the West. Christie's cares for our Lunas. We don't.

Child care

SO we don't care for our Lunas, Hidalgos and Damian Domingos. But do we care for our children? Yes, if we go by history. On Oct. 26, by Proclamation 258 of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the nation celebrates Puericulture Centers Day.

Our health care regime continues to struggle, but it would have been worse if not for the intrepid and well-meaning public health professionals and volunteers who started the puericulture movement in the early decades of the 20th century. One of them, Dr. Jose F. Fabella (1888-1945), has come to be known as the father of public health and social work. The woeful maternal birth and infant mortality rate during his time made him embark on a mission to build puericulture centers around the islands.

It is gratifying to learn that the puericulture movement, a civil-society movement in itself even before pretenders borrowed the phrase from Antonio Gramsci and applied it to just about any NGO, has been continued by a host of groups, many of them women's organizations. Their example shows that maternal and child health care, in contrast to care for our cultural patrimony, is not a puerile thing in the Philippines.

De facto martial law is already here

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SAY what you will of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, but she is the only Filipino President who has made the whole country boom. Boom in Zamboanga. Boom in Kidapawan, Cotabato. Boom in Quezon City. Boom again in Zamboanga. We really have a booming economy, thanks to GMA.

* * *

It is customary at this time of the year for charlatans claiming psychic powers to look at their crystal balls and predict the future. I will now give my own opinions and I am willing to bet that they will surely happen.

I predict that there will be many more explosions toward the end of the year. There will be deaths and many more will be injured. The hospitals will be very busy attending to the wounded. There will be fires but there will be few arrests.

The biggest number of explosions and victims will be on the night before the year changes, when the whole country will be like a war zone, complete with smoke and the smell of explosives.

* * *

Because of the recent terrorist attacks, many people fear that martial law might be imposed again. What people don't realize is that it's already here. Not officially, but its effects can already be felt. People, including foreigners, are now being arrested and detained without bail even if they have not committed capital crimes. Private property, including bank deposits, are being confiscated by influential people. And there's nothing you can do about it. You run to the courts and to other government regulatory bodies for help and nothing happens. Your family members and lawyers are given the runaround and you continue to stay in jail.

You think that can't happen under the 1986 Cory Constitution? It is already happening, although we don't realize it yet. Even President Macapagal doesn't realize it, but her subordinates are already using draconian methods.

* * *

Any decent President who learns of the abuse of human rights that her subordinates are doing—especially one who is conscious of what the rest of the world will think of his or her government—will put her foot down and order her subordinates to stop it. That is why I'm telling this story, in the hope that President Macapagal is one of those decent Presidents.

And this is just one example of a de facto martial law silently creeping up on us almost undetected.

An old man, a Spaniard invited along with other retired foreigners by the Philippine government to live here in blissful retirement, provided they deposited at least $50,000 each in a Philippine bank and paid the necessary fees, decided to accept the offer. His name is Ramon M. Collado. You must have already read about him and his sorry plight in the newspapers. He is at present imprisoned at the detention center of the Bureau of Immigration in Bicutan. The reason: He failed to secure the required Alien Employment Permit (AEP), although he has a Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV) but that was cancelled because of the lack of an AEP. That made him an "undocumented alien."

Failure to get an AEP may have been just an oversight since Collado is not really employed. The work he has been doing has to do with his being president of the association of foreign retirees here, the Prama Foundation, but the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA) used that as an excuse to have him arrested. Although influential Filipinos who violate laws due to an "oversight" don't even get a slap on the wrist, Collado was clamped in jail without bail, although his perceived crime is hardly a capital offense.

I wrote yesterday that Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo told me that Collado could be released on bail and that she could not understand why his lawyer had not filed a petition for bail. His lawyer said, however, that he did file a bail petition but it was denied.

I told the lawyer I had Domingo's assurance that she would release Collado on bail and asked him to try again.

Yesterday, the prisoner was taken to the Bureau of Immigration expecting to be bailed out. But they said they were given the runaround. They were told to get the OK of J. Antonio Leviste, chair of the PLRA, who is in Japan. I don't know how the function and authority of the immigration commissioner was transferred to the PLRA.

It turned out that Leviste, in spite of his conciliatory statements last week, has filed a civil complaint for libel against Collado. Libel is a bailable offense. Furthermore, the case filed is civil, not criminal, and the defendant doesn't have to be detained.

So there you are. The accused is being denied due process. And his freedom. It is martial law all over again. Even if all the bad things they say about Collado were true, he is still a human being and should be treated like one. What if this is done to a Filipino in a foreign country?

As in the old Marcos martial law days, the reason they're doing this to Collado could be because some people want to take over his organization which has hundreds of millions of pesos in the banks. Wouldn't it be convenient for them if he is in prison or out of the country so he cannot complain?

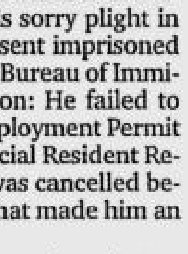
But the most important question is: What will President Macapagal do about such persecution and abuse of power being committed by her subordinates?

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: To be discussed in next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) are the important bills about to be passed by Congress: the absentee voting bill, the dual citizenship bill, the anti-terrorism bill and the national ID system. The authors, committee chairpersons, defenders and opposers of these bills have been invited to be the panelists.

'Salamat p're'

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

I USED to say that God was playing tricks on this country with the strange, often surreal, things that keep happening to it. These days, however, I am not so sure it's God who's doing them at all. The reason is that it's not the politicians, merchants and men in cassocks who are being swept mercilessly by the scythe of page layout. It's the artists.

This year has been especially unkind to them. When Doreen Fernandez and Larry Alcala left for the Great Restaurant Cum Art Studio in the Sky several months ago, I said with stunned amazement that the artists seemed to be going in pairs. Before them, there were Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio. Shortly thereafter, Franz Arcellana breathed his last, too. I breathed a sigh of relief when no one else followed, and thought finally the jinx had been broken. Alas, comes now Nonoy Marcelo.

So all in all this year we've seen a couple of musicians, a couple of writers and a couple of artist-illustrators leave us permanently. Though quite unlike the 19 percent of the population that is fed up with this country and wants to abandon it altogether, they did so completely unwillingly. Indeed, that's the bigger tragedy: These were people who cared for this country deeply, illuminating it with the lamp of wit and humor, reason and passion. They weren't just artists, they were great artists. They were titans in their fields. We have been much impoverished this year, in ways that go beyond the reckoning, or contemplation, of the GNP.

And we've a couple more months to go.

But let's stop being morbid and think of more pleasant things. In my house hangs a couple of drawings that Nonoy did of me ages ago, which I treasure. In one of them, I am pounding on a manual typewriter, imprisoned by bars which are the lines editors use to make page layouts, and wearing a mournful expression. This was shortly after Edsa and way before PCs overran the editorial room. I had a (very) brief stint in the newly revived Chronicle copyreading for it, and writing slice-of-life type articles on the side. One of those articles had to do with the joys and pains, the tragedy and comedy, of rewriting copy. Nonoy illustrated it.

I didn't know he would. I just noticed that one early evening he kept glancing in my direction and chuckling quietly while I, well, pounded on the manual typewriter, wearing a defeated expression while trying heroically to make other people sound good on paper. The following day, my article came out with his drawing.

I was startled by several things. The first was the ease and speed with which he did it. Nonoy, like Larry Alcala, was one of the fastest pens in the West, or East, which was also why he was just as monumentally prolific. He drew without effort—or seemingly so, that is invariably the result of very hard labor, perfecting a craft—and it showed in the naturalness and spontaneity of his drawings.

The second thing was my incredible likeness to the thing that loomed before me. Drawing a face, particularly in cartoon form, is not the easiest thing in the world, as editorial cartoonists will tell you. That he did it with such ease and speed was all the more awe-inspiring.

But it wasn't my physical likeness to the thing that was uncanny. It was that he had pinned down a piece of me, dredged up something from the subterranean depths of me. Friends would tell me later, with much laughter and teasing, that Nonoy had caught my very expression while working. I agreed. I wasn't just looking at a reflection of my face, I was looking at a refraction of my soul. Suddenly, I knew why some African natives refuse to have themselves photographed or drawn—it means somebody will trap your spirit, the way you trap animals.

And still more: It was that Nonoy had caught on to what I was saying and added a few more new dimensions to it. He had interpreted the piece and wrought another layer of meaning around it. I remembered that that was what Nonoy was also very good at: telling stories. I wasn't surprised when I learned that he had graduated with a degree in literature. A few lines and strokes and his drawing flowed with movement and vitality and story.

I saw Nonoy later that day, and apprised him of my admiration, replete with expletives of the *tangna mo, galing mo* variety. He chuckled, more audibly this time. He was pleased, I knew, but wasn't one to dwell on it. Par for the course completely.

All those elements were what made Nonoy Marcelo a brilliant cartoonist and a beautiful man. The second despite the ravages overwork, a hard life (in more ways than one, he padded the pavement too like a resolute bohemian), and disease took on his physical appearance. He was an incredibly gifted artist, armed with the most copious skills pertaining to his art, but he was just an incredibly gifted storyteller, a natural-born raconteur in the guise of mimetic genius. The combination was ferocious. Before P.M. Junior (who has the same awesome potential) and Pugad Baboy, there was Nonoy and Tisoy, there was Nonoy and Ikabod. These were comic strips that cast more than a comic shadow upon the land. They gave our *rakenrol* generation a mirror with which to look at its lost-ness, they gave the next generations a thread with which to find their way out of the darkness.

Above all, Nonoy was a very nice man, which doesn't always go with being a very gifted artist. The opposite is often true. Nonoy had a grand and mischievous spirit, a wise and perpetually young soul. I don't know which snapshot of him I'll carry in my increasingly growing wallet of memory—screaming Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" on stage with the abandon of Freddie Mercury or chuckling softly in shy admission of his awesome talents. Maybe both.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Democracy under new China chiefs

FEATURE

Tamora Vidaillet

BEIJING—Armed with axes and a shotgun, local Communist Party boss Wang Jiakui and his henchmen descended on a quiet corner of Xiahuangya village to settle scores. In the ensuing ruckus, Wang shot villager Chang Jingchen. His motive? Chang failed to vote for him in village elections—China's experiment with grass-roots democracy.

"You dare not to elect me, so I'll kill you. If anyone tries to confront me, I'll kill them all," Wang told villagers, according to an account of the incident in China's outspoken Southern Weekend newspaper. Wang was eventually detained, but a local official said he had yet to be convicted.

It was one of the most shocking and violent examples of electoral abuses in Chinese villages, which have alarmed Chinese leaders as they prepare to hand power to a new generation.

In the run-up to a Communist Party Congress next month, most state media have been trumpeting the spread of "democracy" to hundreds of millions of rural dwellers this year. But Southern Weekend and a few other newspapers which push the boundaries of China's censors, have reported several other scandals involving party cadres meddling in village elections.

So concerned was the State Council, China's cabinet, about such reports that it issued a circular in July, condemning electoral violations that sparked "mass incidents which affected rural social stability." Now liberals in the party are debating extending elections to government posts above the village level in an effort to neutralize boiling resentment of official corruption, analysts say.

But few analysts see any chance that the new generation of leaders will alter the nature of elections aimed principally at maintaining firm party control. "I think there are people who are concerned that if there is not more political reform China will be less stable, but I think there's the counter argument at all levels of society that what you need is more stability at times of rapid economic change," said political scientist David Zweig at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. "I would be surprised if reformers were imagining anything more than one-party rule at this point or if they would be able to pull anything like that off."

China began village elections in the early 1980s after introducing a "household responsibility system" that broke up rural collectives and launched market-oriented economic reforms. After fierce debate in the party, China passed a provisional village election law in 1987 but only adopted it fully in 1998. It specifies that all villagers over 18 can vote in a secret ballot for a village committee, which serves a three-year term and is responsible for local government.

Minister of Civil Affairs Doje Cering said last year such elections were successfully carried out in 80 percent of villages, the lowest level in the administrative hierarchy below townships, counties, cities and provinces.

China has also introduced direct elections for deputies to township and county legislatures. But grass-roots democracy stops there. There is no timetable to take it further and critics say these elections are designed to strengthen party rule rather than give power to the people.

In the cabinet circular that called on party cadres to ensure village elections heeded laws, which include allowing candidates to be non-party members, the government drove that point home. Proper arrangements for elections would help keep "the party's flesh-and-blood ties with the peasant masses" and consolidate "the party's ruling foundation in rural areas."

"The West and the East have different understandings of what democracy is because their cultures are different," said Peking University sociology professor Wang Sibin. "In the villages, it is the party secretaries that have more power, because they represent the government's will."

Carefully limited political change may be on the cards under a new generation of leaders if reformers within the party get their way, according to US-based scholars Andrew Nathan and Bruce Gilley who plan to publish next month what they say are secret documents smuggled out of China.

Reformists, including one of China's seven most influential men, Li Ruihuan, believe party cadres need additional discipline through measures providing for external popular "supervision," described as "democracy," they wrote in a recent article.

Li, a long-time adversary of party chief Jiang Zemin, would like to extend direct elections to some 50,000 township governments and, within three to five years, to counties, cities and eventually entire provinces, they said.

But such reformers, who are still expected to insist on one-party rule, are likely to face resistance, analysts say. "I think for a while, it is not going to be that easy," said Zweig. "Jiang Zemin is still going to have influence and his strategy is very clear that what he sees as his main contribution is to solidify one-party rule." Few see any possibility that significant political reforms can be introduced in the initial years of a new leadership as proposals for even moderate change could harm career prospects.

Some say China's reluctance to create more pressure valves in a rapidly changing society could spark more protests, which have become increasingly common due to rising unemployment spurred by economic restructuring and a yawning chasm between the rich and poor.

Reuters

Bangkok lite

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BANGKOK—Driving into this city from the airport late Tuesday afternoon, our hotel bus was caught in a sudden downpour. Traffic slowed to a crawl, the streets filled up with dirty water, and pedestrians marooned in the flooded streets had no recourse but to stand, stock still, atop steps of roofed metal wait-stops that the city government had thoughtfully built about a foot from the ground.

Much the same thing happens in Manila, we Filipinas aboard the bus mused. Save for the commuters waiting patiently (and dry) on elevated steps, one would encounter much the same scene on any Metro Manila street on a rainy weekday afternoon. And the traffic?! It was just as bad as our cityscape, sudden spurts and intermittent waits, winding, narrow side streets that vehicles have to navigate because of a confusing mess of one-way thoroughfares.

Well, given that Bangkok shares many of Metro Manila's woes, and Thailand itself has so many things in common with the Philippines, why then should Thailand enjoy 10 times the number of tourists who visit our fair isles?

That's a puzzle we have to figure out, and one government and tourism officials have long been trying to crack. Why do foreign tourists flock to Bangkok in such great numbers? What does the city and the country have to offer that the Philippines, with its bounty of natural wonders and the vaunted hospitality of the people, can't seem to match?

* * *

EVERYONE, it seems, is in on the "tourism game." In 1997, flying in from Cambodia, now PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac and I booked a rental car for the drive to our hotel. Because we chose their company, the folks at the booth said, they were offering us a "free" half-day city tour. The tour turned out to be more of a safari to jewelry centers, duty-free shops and selected stores, though we did get the obligatory temples and palaces. But neither Haydee nor I minded. The tour, after all, was for free.

My husband, on a working trip here just the other week, was driven from the airport by a garrulous taxi driver who promptly adopted him and coaxed him into making the taxi a "regular" during his stay. As he drove my husband to the airport to catch his flight home, the driver handed my husband a card upon finding out that I was flying in a few days hence. "Tell her to call me up," the driver said, "after all, we are already family."

And what tourist hasn't left Bangkok with at least one story about the taxi and "*tuk-tuk*" drivers who will insist on dropping you off at their "favorite" restaurant or shop when you have already told them your destination?

* * *

FOR "world-class" shoppers like Filipinas, the first activity upon arrival in this city is a visit to the night markets. While there is a new and less crowded night bazaar at Suan-Lum, the more popular destination is still Patpong, where stalls selling everything from handicraft to fake leather goods, from jewelry to fake branded watches, stand cheek-by-jowl with the infamous nightclubs on this strip.

Haggling and outrageous bargaining are still the norm in Patpong. But having just survived the haranguing and badgering of Beijing's merchants, Thai vendors come off as gentle and benign. While the Chinese react to a really bold bargain by pretending to be deeply insulted, the Thai sellers will only sigh and express disappointment at one's offer. "I lose money," they will say sadly, their normally lilting tones slipping into pseudo-depression. And if you should walk away after your offer is not accepted, the stall-keepers will let you go, unlike those of Beijing who will call after you, even chase you, tugging at your arm, to make yet another counter-offer.

It's easy to forget one is smack in the middle of a red light district while shopping in Patpong. The garish signs, the loud music, the sweaty, red-faced Western tourists staggering out of the bars are still there. So are the young women, most dressed provocatively in short shorts and abbreviated tops, standing by the doorways luring customers in. One nightspot, though, seems to think tourists are drawn by respectability, since its come-on girls are dressed decorously in beige uniforms. But there is no air of menace about the area, and the bantering and badgering about the delights found inside the bars remain lighthearted and breezy. Might this easygoing, accepting milieu be the secret of Bangkok's tourism draw?

* * *

WEDNESDAY was an official holiday in Thailand, and in Bangkok the residents seemed to take it as a signal to pour out of their homes en masse.

We made our way by Sky Train from Asia Hotel to Ma Bung Krong (I hope I spelled it right), known better these days as MBK Center, just two easy and quick stops away. MBK, as our experienced "guide" Dr. Florence Tadiar said, is Bangkok's answer to Megamall. Five stories of shops, theaters, stalls and fast-food outlets drew what looked like about a million people that day.

The fast-food center on the sixth floor offered a mind-boggling array of cuisine, a feast for the eyes and nose as well. The bounty of Thai produce and the ingenuity of its agribusiness concerns were on full display, with fresh vegetables and foodstuff, seafood, including succulent oysters, and a colorful selection of dried fruits and candies offered to hungry shoppers. For dessert, we all decided to try durian with sticky rice, a "calorie grenade" of glutinous rice topped by bits of durian and drowned in heavy coconut cream.

Sated, we wandered the halls and shops of MBK, in a thrall to Bangkok's prosperity and its enviable status as the region's premier tourist draw.

Lunas for sale

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AS this column was being written, the Bureau of Customs was holding a hearing to review the issues surrounding the exportation of Juan Luna's 1892 painting "Parisian Life" that goes on the auction block at Christie's this Sunday in Hong Kong. The INQUIRER has published two front-page stories on the futile attempts to block the sale.

Hidden under the clash of personalities (and Filipinos love gossip and scandal) are important issues on protection of the cultural heritage of the nation. I addressed some of these issues in my Wednesday column and I will address the rest here.

First, the issue of export papers. The painting was issued an export permit because the painting was to be sent abroad "for exhibition" with the understanding that it would be returned to the Philippines. What it lacks is a permit to export issued in writing by the director of the National Museum, that is, practically a certification that the painting is not a designated National or Important Cultural Treasure of the Philippines. To date, there are less than a hundred National Cultural Treasures, 26 of these being colonial churches that obviously cannot be exported. The same goes for the Rice Terraces. A panel of experts will have to be convened by the National Museum to determine if this painting, described effusively as rare, beautiful and important in the Christie's catalogue, is a National Cultural Treasure.

I hate to publicly disagree with the INQUIRER's front-page stories, but this painting is definitely not in the same league as the "Spoliarium," "Blood Compact" or "Bulaqueña." It may be an important cultural treasure but it is not a national treasure. If designated as an important cultural treasure, it can still be exported and sold provided the government is given first option. Furthermore, the government is given three months, under the law, to raise the money for this painting which has been repeatedly described as "priceless," although it actually has a P15-million price tag on it. Do you think the cash-strapped government will pay P15 million for this painting? Based on previous history, I doubt it.

In May 1960, Grace V. Luna de San Pedro, widow of Juan Luna's son Andres, offered 64 paintings (actually 52 pieces but some were painted on both sides) to the Philippine government for P531,000. The Juan Luna Centennial Commission convened a panel of experts whose appraisal went way below her asking price. The average price given by separate appraisers for the lot was P185,000. Naturally, the sale did not push through.

Ms Luna returned to the United States, taking with her a major part of our cultural heritage. She passed away and the Luna memorabilia disappeared—only to be recovered in the 1980s and returned to the Philippines. Many of the paintings offered to the government in 1960 were acquired 20 years later for millions and dispersed. A major part was donated to the National Museum in another controversial story we will narrate later.

Based on my research, in October 1960 the Luna Commission offered P50,000 for a lot consisting of a large portrait of Luna's mother entitled "A mi madre," all of Luna's sketchbooks, medals, certificates, newspaper clippings, manuscripts and a bloodied uniform of Antonio Luna. Ms Luna wanted P50,000 for the portrait alone, so negotiations dragged on until June 1961 when she agreed to sell the lot for P65,000. The committee offered P55,000. She went down to P60,000. Chair Quintin Paredes, as if he were bargaining for *bangus* in a wet market, split the difference and the price agreed upon was P57,500.

Then Ms Luna requested that she be paid in US dollars or at least allowed to purchase dollars at the exchange rate of P2 to $1. The solicitor general was asked to draw up the deed of absolute sale but he rubbed her the wrong way and the deal was off.

Now we go to the issue of ownership. Last Wednesday the INQUIRER headline screamed, "Luna owners: stop sale." The story hinted that the painting was "borrowed" by one branch of the family, etc.

That same day I received a copy of a letter to INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Magsanoc from Mercedes Nakpil-Zialcita requesting correction of factual errors in the story. Part of the letter reads:

"Angel Nakpil, my first cousin, was one of the rightful heirs to the assets of the Nakpil-Bautista house. Thus, he acquired the painting as his share of his inheritance. It was never on loan to him. It was his share....

"My position once again is: My cousin's heirs have a right to sell the 'Interioeur d'un café' by Juan Luna. But I prefer that the buyer be from the Philippines so that this national treasure will remain in this country for Filipinos to enjoy."

Whoever buys the Luna this Sunday will almost surely be a Filipino collector. Luna, Amorsolo, Magsaysay-Ho, the bright stars of auction sales these days, are bought by Filipinos, not foreigners. The Luna will return to the Philippines, but it will remain in a private collection. National and important cultural treasures are meant for the elevation of Filipinos, but until our general laws are clarified by implementing rules and regulations, all our talk will remain in the realm of scandal and gossip and not address issues.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

A parade in Jolo

COMMENTARY

Judy T. Gulane
Institute on Church and Social Issues

A FEW weeks ago, I visited Jolo for the first time. It took a considerable amount of courage and prayers to go there, considering the media reports at that time of a military crackdown on the Abu Sayyaf who had kidnapped some members of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Jolo has always been presented in the media as a high-risk area (and there is basis for this), but the reason for that visit—Asian Journey Philippines, an annual meeting of Christians who work in Muslim areas—was very compelling. As it turned out, the events in Jolo at that time made that visit worthy of the risk.

Sept. 18 was the 612th anniversary of administrative governance of the province of Sulu. The anniversary was an affirmation of the first working government anywhere in the Philippines, a political system that was based on the sultanate.

On that day, there was a parade in Jolo, the provincial capital, that was participated in by representatives of the province's 18 towns. It was a parade full of brilliant colors and booming sounds, extraordinary for showcasing the local culture and the diversity of natural resources that are found in the province.

The men and women came out dressed in their best traditional clothing—colorful silks that reflected the sun—and accoutrements such as gold jewelry and indigenous weapons. Floats representing the different municipalities were decorated with local products—fruits such as lanzones, durian and mangosteen, which were in season at that time, and products from the sea such as crabs, lobsters, seaweeds and shells.

Watching the parade, I could not help but wonder how, despite the richness of the culture and abundance of natural resources, Sulu remains one of the poorest provinces in the country. Jolo was simply overflowing with fruits and there was plenty of seafoods, and yet it was nowhere near a picture of prosperity.

Jolo residents I've talked to bemoan this fact. It is Sulu's long history of conflict, they say, that holds the province hostage from making any economic progress.

This long history dates back years—to the Moro Wars, the conflict between the Spaniards and the Muslims of Mindanao and Sulu that began in 1578 and lasted until 1898. The Spaniards had sought to impose their sovereignty and religion over the whole of the Philippines, including Muslim areas, but the Muslims had resisted, in defense of their independence and Islam.

When the Spaniards ceded the Philippines to the Americans in the Treaty of Paris, Muslim resistance turned against the new colonizers. Two notable battles took place in Jolo: the Battle of Bud Dajo in 1906, which ended with the death of 600 Muslims, and the Battle of Bud Bagsak in 1913, which took between 300 and 500 Muslim casualties. No major battles took place after these two, however, as the Americans used education and development assistance to pacify the Muslims.

After the Americans, the residents of Sulu fought against the Philippine government. The starting point for this resistance was the Jabidah Massacre in 1968, wherein recruits for a planned invasion of Sabah were killed. Most of these recruits came from Sulu. This incident gave rise to armed liberation groups seeking autonomy or independence for Muslims. One of these groups is the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founded by Nur Misuari, a Tausug.

The MNLF had signed a peace treaty with the Philippine government but this did not end the violence in Sulu. The emergence of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu (and Basilan) prompted the Philippine government to station many of its troops there. In Jolo, one cannot go around without seeing members of the military or military outposts.

Jolo residents also point to another reason: the culture of violence in Sulu. This is the culture of vendetta and counter-vendetta, wherein a simple disagreement between two people will escalate to include their families. One resident has described a typical event in Jolo: one cracking or booming sound means that a firecracker has exploded, three sounds mean a fire, but a series of sounds means a gunfight or worse and there will be no classes for a week.

This history and culture of violence have accounted for Sulu's backwardness and general neglect by the government. There are no statistics for Sulu but there are numbers for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), of which it is a member, to prove this.

The ARMM's gross regional domestic product in 1999 was the lowest among all the regions at P30.847 billion. For the whole Philippines, it was P2.996 trillion.

Its per capita gross regional domestic product, on the other hand, was also lowest, at P13,559. For the whole Philippines, it was P39,024.

Its infant mortality rate in 1995 was the second highest among all regions with 63. Eastern Visayas ranked highest with 64. For the whole Philippines, infant mortality rate was 49. Its maternal mortality rate, on the other hand, was highest with 320. Ranking second highest was Northern Mindanao with 225. For the whole Philippines, it was 180.

Simple literacy in 1994 was 73.5 percent while functional literacy was 61.2 percent. For the whole Philippines, the figures were 93.9 percent for simple literacy and 83.9 percent for functional literacy.

What will it take to bring development to Sulu? Obviously, the peace and order situation has to be addressed. Without it, local industries will not flourish and investments will not come in. It is also important for the residents to work among themselves on how to bring about peace. The violence has to stop.

Back in Manila, I went through the newspapers published around the week of Sept. 18 to see whether the celebration had received some coverage. There was none. And even now, all that we read about Sulu is the latest kidnapping. There is just too much bad news about the province, which do not help it in any way. For a change, perhaps it is time for some good news about Sulu.

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Communism nearing its end

I WAS in the United States on Nov. 10, 1989 and I watched on television the Berlin Wall being torn down. Although it was happening thousands of miles away, I was ecstatic and crying tears of joy. At last Communism was being shown to be a failure.

I was a student in the 1970s, a really turbulent decade. I joined rallies and demonstrations out of curiosity and later out of idealism. But I soon realized that it was leading to nothing.

I was lucky to be given a chance to go to the United States on a study grant. Most of my papers were on Communism. I had a rich background on the subject plus the fact that I once joined demonstrations. But I knew it would never work for any nation, much less here.

The emotion I felt at the sight of the greatest symbol of repression in Germany being torn down was something else. I know how it felt. I had some experience of living under the system.

Communism can never succeed. Russia, Germany and other communist states in Europe and elsewhere broke away from it in time. It simply did not work for them.

On Nov. 12, Germany will commemorate the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. Let this be a warning to our local communists. Communism in our country is nearing its end, its downfall.

—ROSA MAY CALIXTO-BLOCK,
West Riverside,
San Francisco del Monte,
Quezon City

Salute to PDI sports reporting

I WOULD like to praise your excellent Sports section which brought all the good and sad news about Filipino athletes, especially those who participated in the UAAP and the Asian Games. The layout and pictures were simply beautiful and the articles reflected the struggle, the joys and the anguish of our brave athletes as they tried to live out their dreams.

How I wish there were more stories of joy and triumph in the Asian Games, but whether it was good news or bad news, your Sports section was something we all looked forward to reading during the past few days.

Like millions of Filipinos, my heart broke when our basketball team lost to South Korea and then to Kazakhstan. Every day, we followed the experiences of our basketball players and athletes through your paper and leapt with joy with every victory, and then cried over the painful (and sometimes unfair) losses. Your Sports section connected us to our athletes and made us feel their emotions as well. For doing the job so well, I wish to thank and congratulate you.

I hope that despite the loss to South Korea and Kazakhstan, the PBA does not give up on its efforts to form basketball teams for the Asian Games. They came so close to winning this time. Medal or no medal, this RP team really did its best and made us proud. How can we give up now that we were only a point away from the silver medal? The defeat was bitter but it was the closest we've been to defeating the South Koreans in more than a decade. Our team showed us that it's not impossible to win the silver and we should not lose sight of that.

Our other athletes too showed us what is still possible in future Asian Games.

Thank you so much for all your wonderful articles on the games. They were a joy to read even when the news was not so joyful. *Mabuhay kayo*. God bless.

—BENJAMIN C. SALVOSA,
Quezon City

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LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Risks in holding lotteries

THE LOTTO has drawn many bettors. Men and women line up at various lotto outlets, hoping to become instant millionaires.

But lotteries can be dangerous since they induce people to buy beyond their means. They foster cupidity and avarice and even encourage superstition and magic. Daily lotteries encourage betting and greed for money. Many people who are without jobs waste their money and spend hours every day discussing who won and how much.

If there is no fraud in the drawing of numbered balls, it is unnecessary to show the faces of the panel of judges who are probably paid for their brief appearances. We can also dispense with the pretty women announcers who overact in making announcements. All that the bettors want to see are the winning numbers and the corresponding prizes flashed on the TV screen.

Somebody who knows computers said that the odds of winning in the lottery is 1 in 13 million. For this reason, lotteries should be kept under tight control.

—P.N. BELTRAN,
11 Bulletin St., West Triangle,
Quezon City

A matter of inheritance

YOUR front-page article on the Luna painting contains factual errors that should be corrected immediately.

Angel Nakpil, my first cousin, was one of the rightful heirs to the assets of the Nakpil-Bautista house. Thus, he acquired the paintings as his share of his inheritance. It was never on loan to him. It was his share.

Please note that Angel was one of my favorite first cousins. My son Fernando thus became his godchild. When writing on architecture, my son looks up to Angel's works for inspiration. All these years his children have remained very close to me. Your reporter overreads. She is guilty of sensationalistic reportage.

My position once again: My cousin's heirs have a right to sell the "Interieur d'un café" by Juan Luna. But I prefer that the buyer be from the Philippines so that this national treasure will remain in this country for Filipinos to enjoy.

—MERCEDES NAKPIL-ZIALCITA,
4255 Bayview Drive,
Roxas Boulevard,
Parañaque City

Held up by an ATM

ALWAYS check the balance after each withdrawal from the ATM. I have a sad experience with an ATM which can also happen to anyone.

My wife has a bank deposit consisting of her Social Security System retirement pension. I do the withdrawals myself, using her ATM card and her code number.

From her available balance of P2,669.67, I withdrew P1,000 last Sept. 22, 2002 at the bank's Cubao branch. I was surprised to see that her available balance was recorded as P169.67 instead of P1,669.67 or a difference of P1,500.

I inquired from the manager of our original depository bank in Intramuros about this discrepancy. After examination, I was told that there was a withdrawal of P1,500—which I did not do.

The question is how was the withdrawal done when the card and code number of my wife were in my possession? The bank manager told me to just charge it to experience.

It seems that there is no certainty that it will not happen again to me or to any other ATM depositor. To whom shall we go for restitution? Is the ATM always reliable or shall I, like I was told, just charge it to experience?

I never got a receipt for the withdrawal of P1,500. What if the amount missing amounted to millions?

To all those concerned, we must be vigilant.

—LT. COL. JULIAN MALONSO,
92 New York, Cubao,
Quezon City

Should we have a national ID system?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

IF all Filipinos carry a national ID and foreigners who are legally employed in our country too, it would make our country more organized and we would know who are the people who have been illegally living in our country for years. I used to live in another country where every citizen and legal aliens must carry their national ID at all times. If the policeman asks for your ID, you better have it in your possession or else off to jail you go and you have a lot of explaining to do. For aliens the ID is issued by the immigration office.

To prevent the issuance of fake national IDs, this task must be assigned to just three agencies: the immigration bureau, the motor vehicle licensing office or the mayor's office in small towns. All IDs should have bar codes. Documents such as a birth certificate, social security number, passport and other identification cards must be presented prior to issuance of the ID to authenticate the nationality of the person. Foreigners must apply for their national ID through the immigration office.

It seems we have too many overstaying aliens in our country but because we do not have a national ID, we cannot keep track of them. Some of them are even doing business in RP and not paying taxes to our national government. I have a feeling there's a big number of Chinese, Indian and other nationals who are overstaying in our country.

National IDs are a hedge against the criminally inclined or corrupt people! I am not surprised that some people in Congress are opposed to the idea.—**peyote**

* * *

For the enlightenment of everyone, including Sen. Noli de Castro, fingerprints are included in biometrics. Biometrics ("bio" as everybody knows relates to life) pertain to any unique biological characteristic that may be used to identify the "one-and-only-you" (retina, palm imprint, DNA, etc. and for that matter even body odor, etc.). So a national ID which requires fingerprinting violates the SC ruling against the use of biometrics.—**ernie815**

* * *

Leslie, Peterdin and others have caught my attention with their whims regarding the NIDs, (national IDs or as others would call it, the "dog tag"). This national ID is not a new thing, or a high-tech thing. In fact, it was broached several years ago, even before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The idea of putting identification and other vital personal info into one card is plausible. But it is also true that such a system brings risks. It will not stymie high crime organizations. It will give them more ideas. Imagine having all the essential information in a database. This information can be used for various purposes..—**Gabriela May Akda**

* * *

I expected a broader perspective on the topic, not a militant approach.

Our government should do what the US government does: issue driver's licenses to drivers, and a resident's ID to all others. All of these should be issued by the Land Transportation Office. Then unlike the United States, we can require the use of the IDs as the official reference when transacting business with the GSIS, SSS, Pag-IBIG, Comelec, banks, national and local governments, commercial establishments, etc.

Imagine how much we could save by using only one multi-purpose ID? A person will only have one ID, wherever he goes. The SEC will issue a corporate/organization ID. The LTO can also issue ACRs to aliens upon the recommendation of the Bureau of Immigration.

Some say it is impossible to put all information in one ID. Well, the basic data in these IDs are the same: name, permanent address, date of birth, dates of issue and expiry, right thumb print perhaps and of course, the ID number. In all government offices, the person's records can be tied to his NID. It sure will simplify everything. The benefits can increase with computerization.

Forgery? Penalize forgers very heavily. There is so much talk about possible abuse of the NID to violate human rights, etc. Will the opposers please cite specific examples of how that would arise so that legislators and the public can debate and address their concerns? Or are they afraid they will be deprived of the convenience of being able to conceal their identities while committing illicit acts?—**peterdin**

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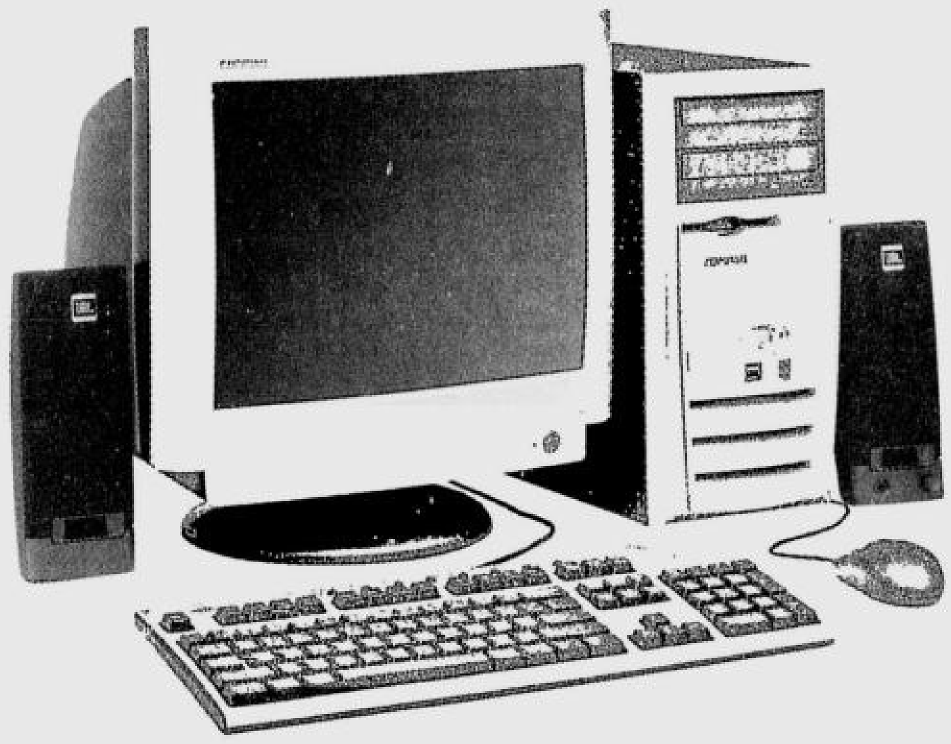

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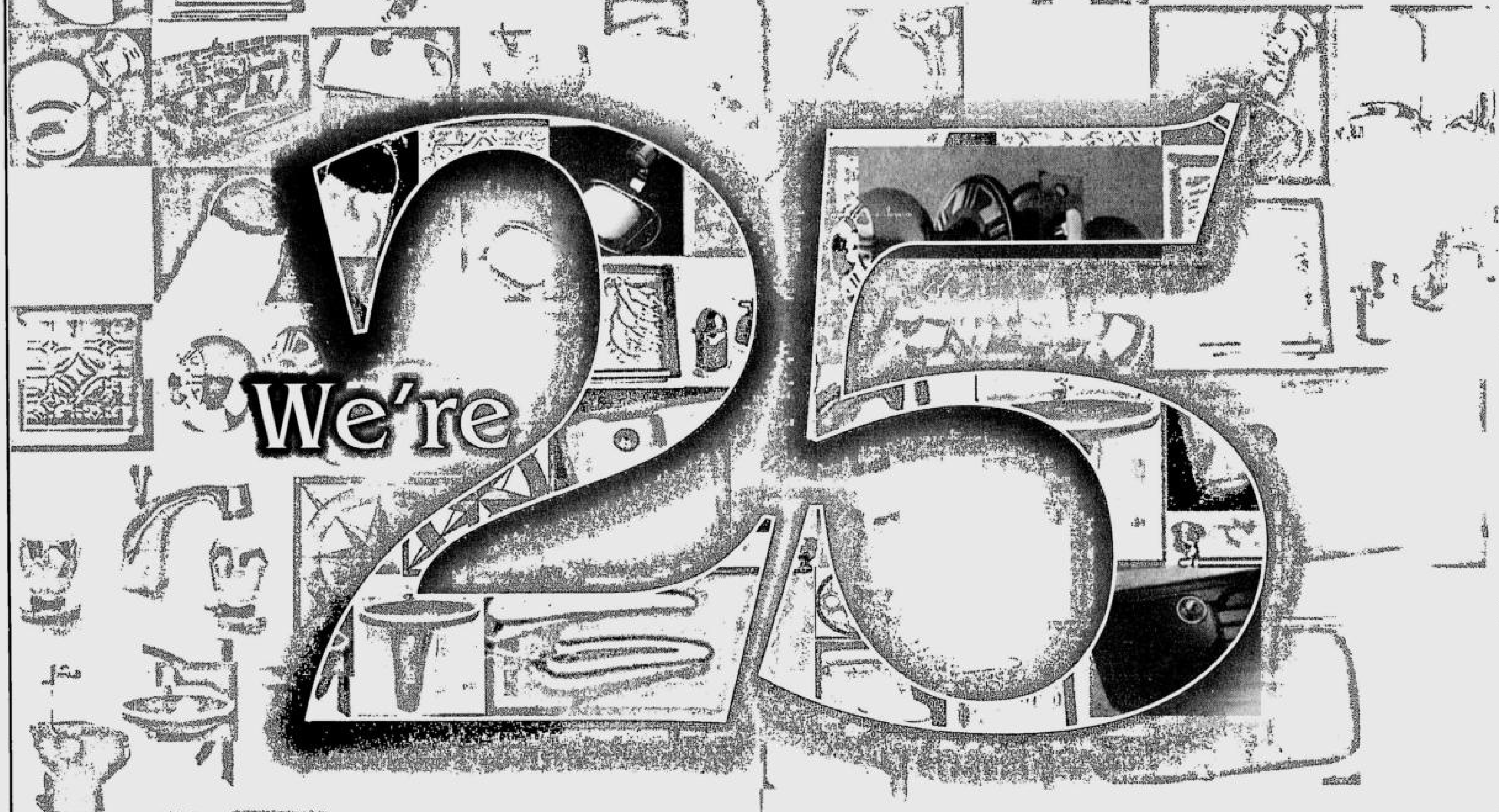

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US warns UN on delays on Iraq action

UNITED NATIONS—Under pressure from Washington to act, the UN Security Council met Wednesday to discuss Iraq as Baghdad denounced a new US draft resolution on weapons inspections as a declaration of war.

US officials warned for the second day that time is running out as the full 15-member council met to consider the latest version of a US draft resolution insisting Iraq disarm.

"We are giving members the most up-to-date version" of the draft, said Richard Grenell, spokesperson for US ambassador John Negroponte.

Grenell did not say when the United States might seek a vote on the resolution, but one council diplomat said a vote was unlikely before Monday.

Washington turned up the pressure, however, warning for the second day in a row that time was running out for UN action.

State Department spokesperson Philip Reeker said Washington still was trying to forge a compromise, but has not changed its expectations.

"This is really an opportunity for the United Nations to show its relevance. A strong resolution, as we've said before, backed with serious consequences is the way to prevent war," he said.

UN diplomats said Wednesday's meeting of the Security Council's five permanent members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—might be their last attempt to reach agreement on Iraq before holding a full Council meeting.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer, who along with President George W. Bush has been making statements betraying growing frustration with the world body, said the end is coming into sight.

"The end is either an agreement or a failure to reach agreement, and it could be either one right now," he said.

Bush national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Washington was not setting any specific timetable for action, but said diplomacy "takes time, but we don't have endless time.

"We will see where we are in a few days," she said.

Fleischer brushed off recent criticism from France and Russia to the US-crafted measure calling for tough new weapons inspections and dire consequences for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein if he fails to comply.

Bush has been stressing in recent speeches that if the United Nations stalls he is ready to act on a congressional resolution authorizing him to attack Iraq when he decides diplomacy has failed. *AFP*

Thailand faces possible terror attacks–Denmark

BANGKOK—Popular Southeast Asian tourist destination Thailand brushed off on Thursday a warning by Denmark that it was a potential target of terror attacks following the deadly Oct. 12 bomb blasts on the Indonesian island of Bali.

Denmark, the current president of the European Union, said on Wednesday it had received information on possible terror attacks planned in Thailand, naming the popular southern island resort Phuket as a potential target.

The Danish warning in a foreign ministry statement came less than two weeks after bombs killed more than 180 people on Bali.

Officials in Phuket, one of the most popular destinations in Thailand for thousands of Scandinavian and European tourists, said they had already beefed up security in most public places.

"It's nonsense," said Police Colonel Apirak Hongthong, head of Phuket immigration office, referring to the warnings.

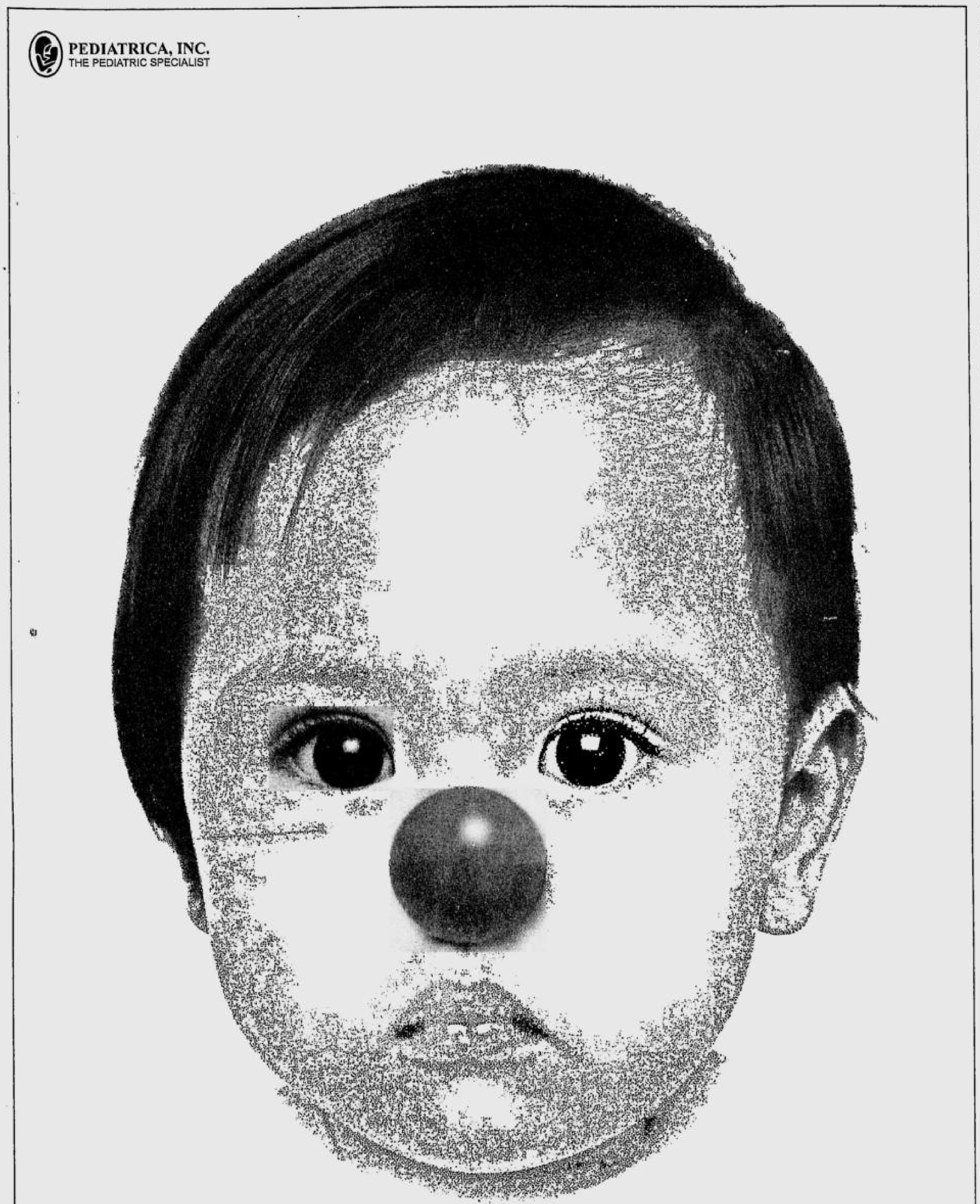
"Our security has been tightened and those blacklisted people can't get here. This is the world's safest island."

Denmark's warning to its citizens comes after Britain extended its travel warnings to much of Southeast Asia, urging its citizens to exercise "extreme caution in public places."

Tourism is one Thailand's main sources of foreign exchange and accounts for about six percent of the country's gross domestic product. Any attack on tourists would severely hurt its economy, which is reeling from the financial crisis in 1997.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra last week announced beefed up security for resorts and areas popular with tourists after the Bali incident.

Phuket Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi said on Thursday several hundred rescue volunteers and shopkeepers would also be trained in surveillance to help the island's 800 police officers. *Reuters*



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Major attack on Internet fails, say experts

WASHINGTON—A major attack this week on "a crucial piece of the Internet infrastructure" failed to cripple the Web, but could be a precursor to a more aggressive effort, security experts said Wednesday.

Analysts said the denial of service attack Monday targeted the 13 root servers that direct traffic on the Internet, bombarding the computers with requests that eventually shut them down.

"It was definitely a major attack," said French Caldwell, an Internet security specialist for the consulting firm Gartner Inc., who has worked with the Defense Department to protect against a crippling "digital Pearl Harbor" attack.

"This is close to what we call a cyberterrorist attack, but a failed cyberterrorist attack."

Caldwell and others said most Internet users did not even notice the problem, which slowed some of the Web traffic around the world moving through the 13 big computers known as root servers.

But he said this could be a precursor to another round of attacks that could do more damage.

"Obviously, the attacker learned something, and could come back with a more aggressive attack," Caldwell said.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Infrastructure Protection Center had known of the attacks thanks to the "vigilance with which the federal government maintains the protections for the Internet" in conjunction with private industry.

"The method of the attack was nothing new," said Fleischer. "There was some degradation of service; however, nothing failed, and providers were able to mitigate the attacks very quickly.

"There is a recognition that the Internet is a vital part of our economy and the world's economy and has become part of the critical infrastructure that we, as a government, work with the private sector to keep protecting," he said.

FBI spokesperson John Iannarelli said the agency's cybercrime arm, the National Infrastructure Protection Center, "is aware (of the attack) and they're addressing the matter."

The Sans Institute, an Internet security consortium, said the attack lasted approximately two hours, from 2000 to 2200 GMT.

Matrix NetSystems, a firm that monitors Internet performance, said data transmission losses reached about 10 percent at the height of the attacks compared with a normal rate of one percent.

"This attack is clearly targeted at a crucial piece of the Internet infrastructure," Matrix said. *AFP*

Ivory Coast urged to set talks venue

ABIDJAN—African leaders urged Ivory Coast's government to take the next step towards peace by setting a venue for talks with rebels to end a month-long war that has split the country in two.

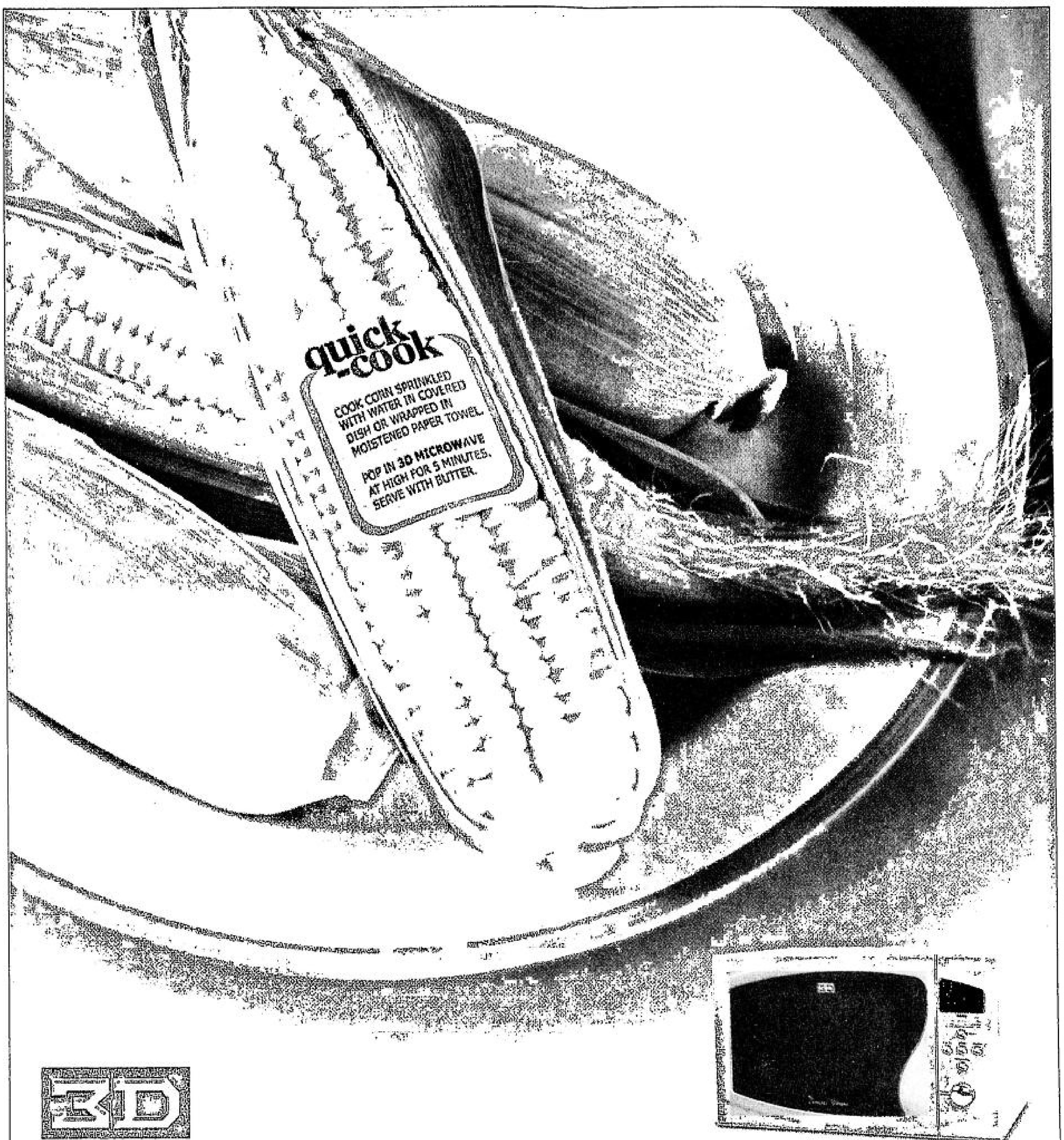
The conflict that blew up from a failed Sept. 19 coup has left hundreds dead, driven tens of thousands from their homes and ruined the West African country's hopes of regaining a reputation it once held for stability.

South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki joined a one-day summit in the main city of Abidjan on Wednesday with leaders from West African countries who fear that Ivory Coast's turmoil could spill over its borders.

After the summit, the leaders urged the two sides to get together immediately for talks, but did not set a date and said it was now up to President Laurent Gbagbo to propose a venue inside Ivory Coast.

At the same time, they sent a message to rebels of the Patriotic Movement of Ivory Coast that restoring order was dependent on the return of government authority to the northern half of the country that they hold.

West African countries have said they will send a force as soon as they can to replace French troops acting as a buffer between the two sides since a ceasefire last week. *Reuters*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Police arrest 2 in Washington sniper case

WASHINGTON—Police in Maryland have made two arrests at a highway rest stop in connection with the Washington-area sniper case, CNN television said early Thursday quoting sources listening to police scanners.

Two men were arrested near Middletown, Maryland, some 80 km northwest of here, CNN said.

Another source told CNN the people arrested included the suspect for whom Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose late Wednesday said an arrest warrant had been issued for firearms violations.

The two men detained were John Allen Muhammad, also known as John Allen Williams, a black male 42 years of age, who CNN said was a Gulf War veteran, and John Lee Malvo, William's 17-year-old stepson.

Tipped off by a witness, police found them sleeping inside a blue and burgundy Chevrolet sedan with New Jersey license plates, which Moose had also identified as the vehicle the pair was traveling in, the source said.

They made no struggle when they were apprehended, the source.

Maryland police were expected to hold a press conference shortly.

The area around Interstate 70, near where the multiple arrests took place, is under police control with helicopters buzzing overhead, CNN said.

An 11-km stretch of the highway has been closed to traffic, the sources added.

The events in Middletown followed an action-packed day Wednesday in the sniper investigation.

After police in Montgomery County, Maryland, confirmed that a 35-year-old bus driver shot Tuesday was the sniper's 10th fatal victim after examining ballistic evidence, local and federal police in Tacoma, Washington, searched a private yard where they removed a tree stump where bullets may have been embedded.

Experts speculated the tree stump could have been used for target practice. Neighbors reported hearing frequent gunfire coming from the house in December and January when it was occupied by a previous owner.

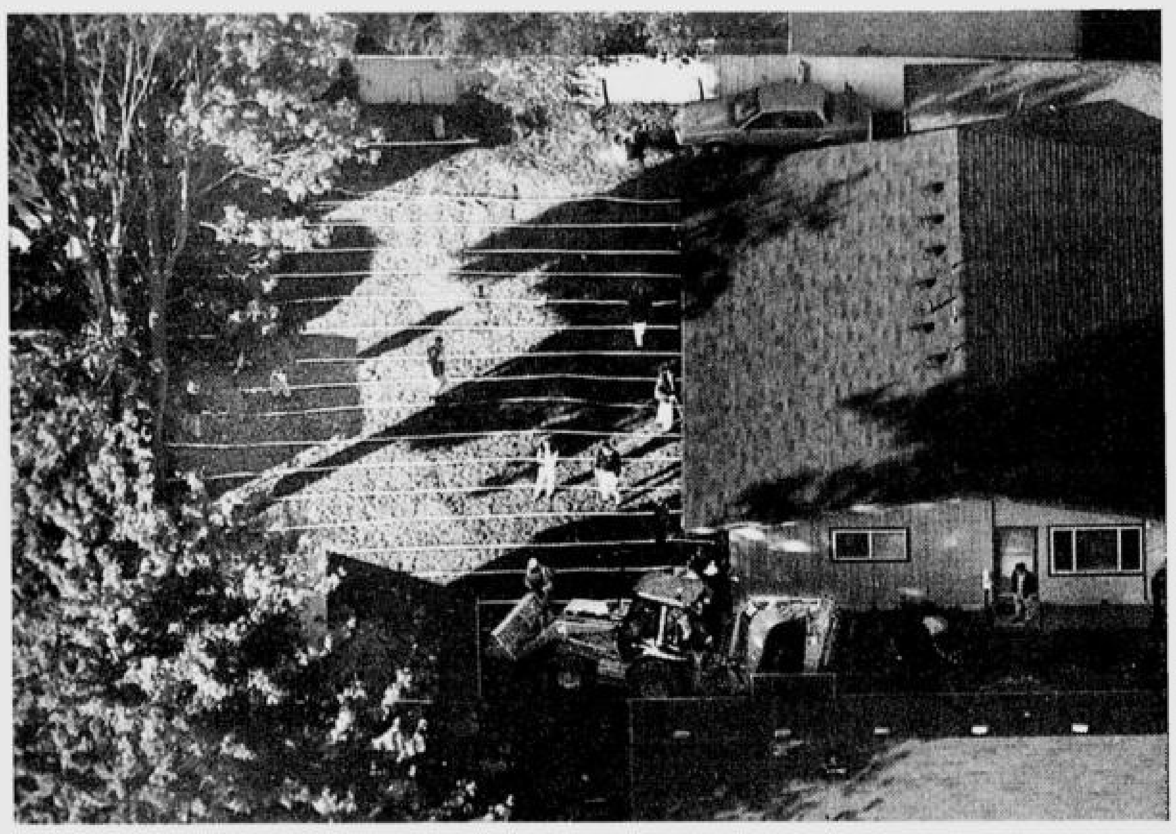
Reports said that at least one previous resident of the home was a former soldier from the nearby Fort Lewis US army base, which is home to 21,000 troops.

Police chief Moose late Wednesday told reporters that an arrest warrant had been issued for Muhammad for firearms violations unrelated to the sniper case, but who was sought for questioning in the case.

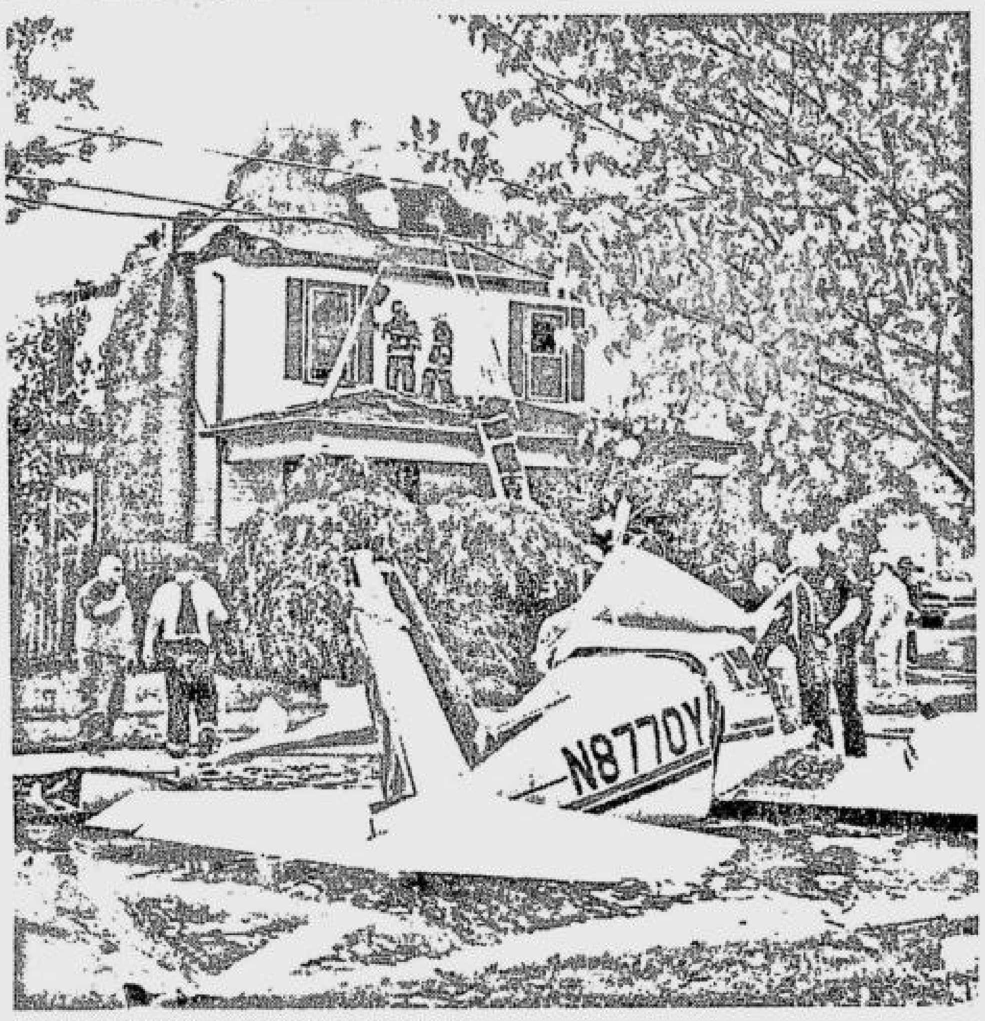
Moose said Muhammad was to be considered "armed and dangerous," but stressed that the change of "alleged violation of federal firearms laws" and were not related to the sniper shootings.

However, he added, "we believe Mr. Muhammad may have information related to our investigation."

Media reports early Thursday indicated that investigators were also seeking a possible connection between the Washington sniper and the fatal shooting of a woman in the state of Alabama in late September. *AFP*



FBI investigators use metal detectors and a back hoe to search the backyard of a house Oct. 23, in connection with the sniper attacks in Washington, DC. AFP



NON-FLYING FOREIGN OBJECT AP

A damaged twin-engine plane sits on a street on Middlesboro, Ky., after it crashed on takeoff at the Middlesboro-Bell County Airport on, Oct. 22. The plane struck the top of a house, then crashed onto the next street at the east end of the runway, police said. The two-story house caught fire in the crash. The occupant, who was watching TV in a downstairs room, was not injured.

Australia PM urges ban on handguns

CANBERRA—Stung by a deadly school shooting spree, Australian Prime Minister John Howard called Thursday for a ban on all handguns except those used in sporting events and by security forces.

Acting four days after a Melbourne university student armed with several handguns killed two classmates and wounded five others in a shooting rampage, Howard said radical measures were needed.

"The public demands that more be done to control the proliferation of handguns," he said.

"Essentially what I am proposing is that we make allowance for Commonwealth and Olympic Games and similar events, and weapons destined for police, security and military use, and apart from that all other classes of handguns should be banned nationwide," he said.

The ban would be accompanied by a gun buy-back scheme and amnesty for those who turn in weapons held illegally.

Howard met earlier Thursday with the premiers and chief ministers of all Australia's states and they agreed to submit a series of gun control proposals to a meeting of police ministers next month.

But some state leaders stopped short of explicitly endorsing an outright ban on handguns, stressing rather the need to clamp down on illegal imports and loose licensing of the weapons. *AFP*

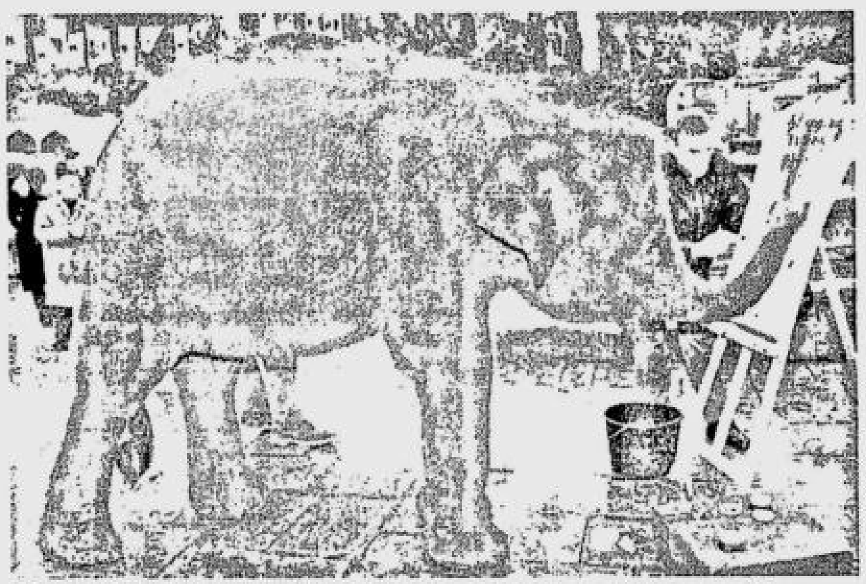
Baby elephant signs petition

BERLIN—A baby elephant in Germany has signed a petition to protect wild elephants around the world, an environmental protection group said.

Sayang, who escaped elephant poachers in Borneo three years ago, signed the petition by holding a paintbrush dipped in paint with her trunk, said a spokesperson for NABU, an environmental protection group based in Germany's former capital Bonn.

A zoo in Hanover had nominated Sayang as a signatory, after discovering her writing talent, he added.

"Sayang had been practicing for days before signing the dotted line," a spokesperson for the zoo said. *Reuters*



ELEPHANT lady Sayang of the Hanover zoo 'signs' a petition against a relaxation of the Washington species protection agreement, Oct. 23, as Jochen Flasbarth, president of the German Environment Protection Union, looks on. AFP

UN sounds alarm on possible ethnic massacres in Congo

UNITED NATIONS—A senior UN official warned on Wednesday of the possibility of ethnic massacres in a remote corner of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where clashes have been reported after incitement of ethnic hatred.

"We already have some reports of violent killings, where estimates of the number of dead range from 200 to a thousand," said UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Carolyn McAskie.

There have also been reports of children showing up at hospitals with machete wounds, she told reporters after a visit to the region to assess humanitarian needs.

The reports center on mineral-rich Ituri province in northeastern Congo, near the Ugandan border. The area is near Congo's border with Rwanda where an estimated 800,000 people were butchered during a 1994 genocide stemming from ethnic hatred.

The rapid departure of tens of thousands of Rwandan and Ugandan troops from eastern Congo in recent weeks, fulfilling agreements intended to end the civil war, has instead created a dangerous power vacuum in the region, fueling fresh fighting.

An estimated two million people have already died and massive human rights abuses have occurred in Congo's four-year civil war. The conflict, Africa's biggest war, erupted in 1998 when rebels backed by Uganda and Rwanda tried to topple Congo's Kinshasa government, which was propped up by troops from Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia.

Human rights group Amnesty International urged the UN Security Council last week to prevent "genocide" in Ituri province and accused the Ugandan army of involvement in mass killings and targeted rape.

Amnesty International Secretary-General Irene Khan said in a letter to the United Nations that the area was increasingly seeing "extremist calls for ethnically pure towns and villages."

"Extremists who were once on the margins of the ethnic groups are now in leading positions. As extreme hatred is escalating, Amnesty International fears that deliberate incitement could lead to the possibility of genocide," Khan said.

She urged the Security Council to increase the number of UN observers in the region to prevent further attacks against civilians and to ensure that attacks against civilians are investigated and monitored. *Reuters*

DNA tests confirm teener is daughter of Japan abductee

TOKYO—DNA tests have confirmed North Korea's claim that a teenage girl now living in Pyongyang is the daughter of a Japanese woman abducted by North Korean spies decades ago, officials announced Thursday.

The tests, conducted by Japan's National Police Agency, show that the 15-year-old girl is the daughter of Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korean agents in 1977, Cabinet Office official Takashi Okada said.

North Korea has said that Yokota has since died, though her relatives in Japan question the North's account.

Her abduction was one of 13 confirmed in a surprise confession by North Korean leader Kim Jong Il at a summit with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi last month. The five known survivors are currently in Japan for their first visit since they were snatched away a quarter century ago.

Yokota's case was particularly tragic.

Kidnapped when she was just 13, while on her way home from a junior high school badminton practice, she is the youngest known abduction victim.

According to North Korean officials, she married a North Korean man after being taken to the communist country, but suffered from severe depression and killed herself at a mental facility in 1993.

Yokota's parents strongly question the North's claim that their daughter is dead, and provided samples of hair and blood for DNA testing to confirm the girl in Pyongyang, who goes by the name Kim Hea Kyong, was actually their granddaughter.

"I am relieved to hear this," Shigeru Yokota, Megumi's father, said upon being officially told of the results.

He said he hopes to meet his granddaughter as soon as possible.

"I'm filled with deep emotion," said his wife, Sakie. But she stressed that she still considers Megumi to be missing, not dead.

The news comes amid growing tensions over whether the homecoming of the five abduction survivors should be extended. *AP*

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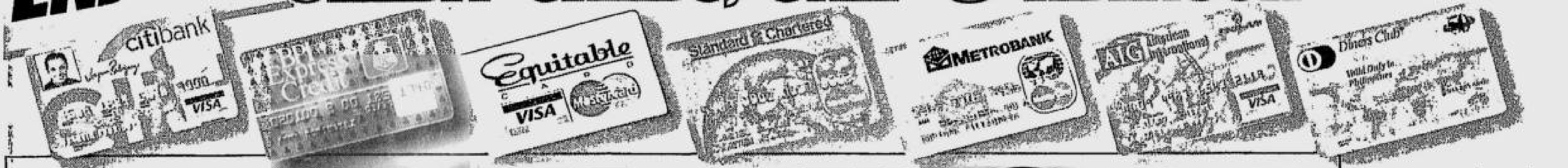

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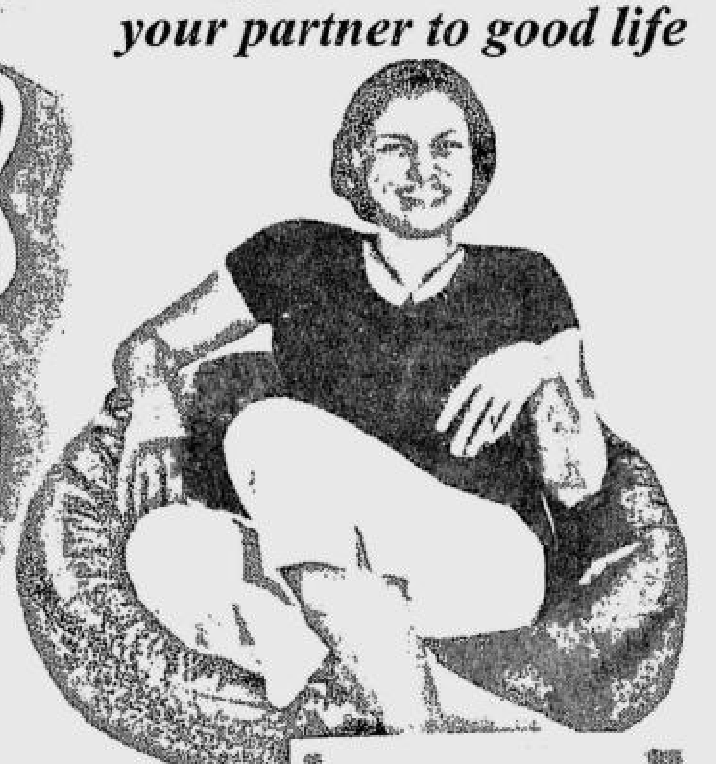

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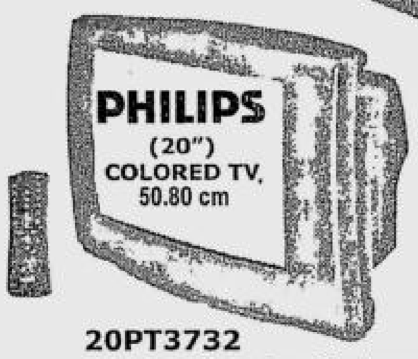

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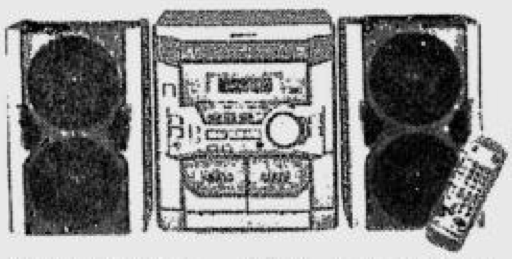

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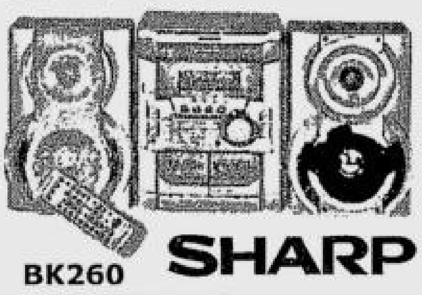

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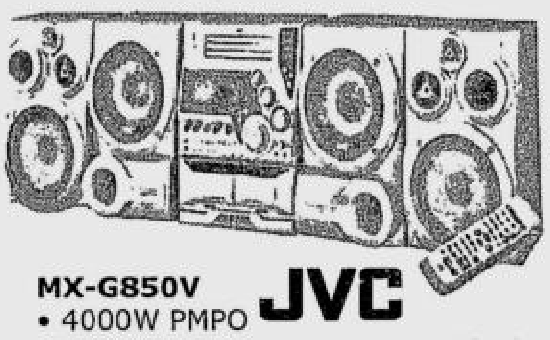

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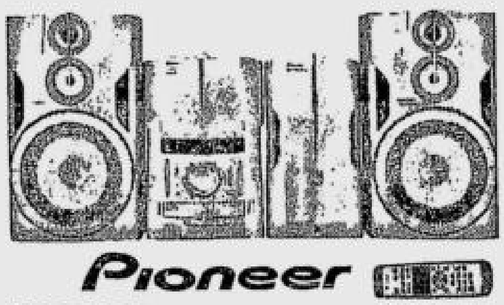

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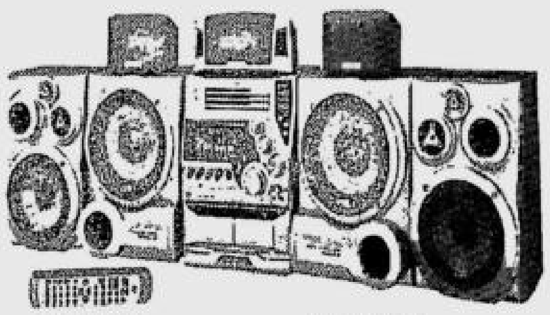

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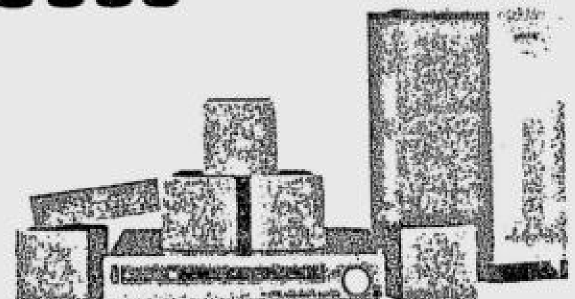

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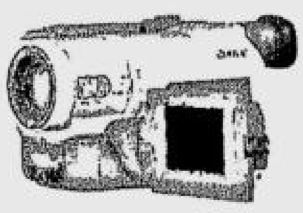

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Bomb scare grips Olongapo

OLONGAPO CITY—This city was not spared from bomb threats after a woman caller on Wednesday told City Hall employees that a bomb was planted in the building.

Jerry Vidal, a city government employee, said he received a phone call at 8:30 a.m. from the woman telling him that a bomb was hidden at the office of the public utility department.

Vidal immediately called the police, which ordered the employees to immediately leave the building.

Insp. Camilo Pablo and Senior Insp. Jeric Villanueva, who led a team of bomb experts in inspecting the City Hall premises, found no bomb. The employees resumed work after the inspection.

In Pampanga, police officials in Central Luzon said the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in Central Luzon would be "under heightened security" after a spate of bombings rocked Metro Manila and Zamboanga City.

Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, regional police director, said he would order "increased (police) visibility and presence" in cemeteries and other crowded areas to ensure the safety of the public.

He said policemen were also directed to "institute pre-emptive measures to prevent terrorist attacks with emphasis on potential targets," referring to cemeteries, transport terminals and ports.

Law enforcers received instructions to "conduct random mobile checkpoints particularly on suspicious subjects."

Calderon said the security measures were being set in place "in view of the recent spate of bombing incidents and (the volume of) people to the provinces for the holidays."

Several bomb threats, which all turned out to be hoaxes, were reported in various parts of Central Luzon.

In Pangasinan, security at the Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine in Manaoag town was tightened after rumors spread that it could be a target of terrorist bombings, Mayor Pedrito Garcia said.

Garcia said he asked police officials to train vendors around the church to spot a bomb that could be hidden anywhere in the seven-hectare shrine.

"We could not confirm these rumors. But we are not taking them lightly," he said.

Garcia also held dialogues with the Dominican Order, which manages the Manaoag shrine, to tighten security around the church. Thousands of devotees flock to the church yearly.

"We have also requested police officials to assign at least two bomb experts in the church during the Saturday and Sunday Masses. We have asked the provincial police to augment our 33-member police force," the mayor said. *Allan Macatuno, Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MILF leader says military concocting camp attack tale

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MARAWI CITY—A ranking official of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) accused the military of making up the 304th Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces' camp which it claimed to have overrun on Mt. Palao in Pualas, Lanao del Sur, over the weekend.

Rudy Radiamoda, chair of the MILF West Ranao Sur Regional Command, said the 304th Brigade was in Marugong, Lanao del Sur, and that "no MILF camp resembled the one that the military claimed it overran as shown in the photos that came out in the newspapers."

"Yes, there are few MILF fighters down the slopes of Mt. Palao, but they are mobile and are from another camp near Lanao del Norte," he added.

The military also claimed killing nine MILF rebels in four encounters since operation "Thunderstorm" began on Oct. 12. But Radiamoda said only four rebels were killed.

On Tuesday, the military invited the media to a "flyover" of the area bordering Pualas and Sultan Gumander towns in Lanao del Sur and Nunungan in Lanao del Norte for a close look of the alleged MILF camp.

Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, chief of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said the military operations also covered Maladig in Sultan Gumander.

But Jannati Mimbantas, acting director of the Darul Iman Military Academy in Camp Bushra Somiorang and spokesperson of the MILF's Base 102, said Maladig was a coastal barangay that had been declared a peace zone.

Since the operations started, some 790 families have fled their homes and have been seeking refuge in Maladig.

Mimbantas accused the military of violating the peace pact signed between the government and the MILF in Kuala Lumpur last year and the joint communiqué against terrorism.

"We have been strictly following the ceasefire agreement, and look at the military now. They are after us because of the allegations that we are coddling some Abu Sayyaf leaders, and that is totally absurd," he said.

Mimbantas said the MILF had asked the government to verify the military's allegations.

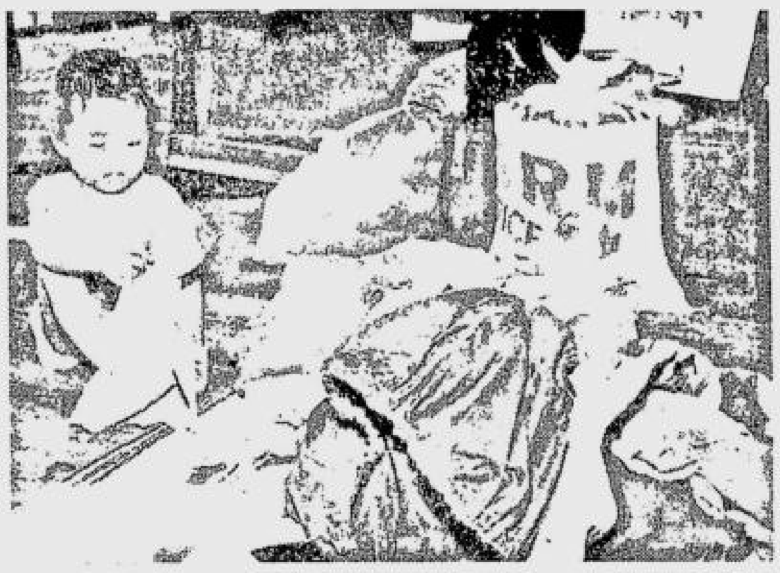
Local Muslim civil society groups have also urged the government to investigate human rights violations allegedly committed by the military during its operations in Lanao.

About 300 people, mostly women, staged a rally at the Plaza Cabili in Banggolo here yesterday to demand Malacañang action.

The Muslim Multi-Sectoral Movement for Peace and Development (MMMPD) said it had received complaints that civilians were being arrested on suspicion of being MILF rebels.

Abdullah Lacs Dalidig, MMMPD spokersperson, said the government should not take the complaints for granted and should act on it immediately.

Dalidig said a wounded civilian in Poona Bayabao had died because the military failed to bring him to a hospital for treatment.



A YOUNG evacuee from Sultan Gumander in Lanao del Sur. RYAN LIM

15 Negros farmers start hunger strike

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Fifteen farmers began a hunger strike Wednesday in front of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office (Paro) here, to dramatize their demand to be installed in lands owned by the late Roberto S. Benedicto, a known crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The farmers, belonging to the Task Force Mapalad (TFM), have been camping out in front of the Paro office in Barangay Dauis for over a week now. The TFM, a non-government organization, extends assistance to and organizes farmers through several chapters in the country.

Rorie Fajardo, TFM spokesperson, said the hunger strike would go on until Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza addressed the farmers' demand.

The protesters were issued Certificates of Land Ownership Award (Cloas) for the 242-hectare Hacienda Carmenchika in 1999 and the 61-hectare Hacienda Carmen Grande in Barangay Don Salvador Benedicto in Pontevedra town, about 50 kilometers from here, in 2000, according to the TMF.

But the Department of Agrarian Reform has not yet installed them in their lands due to resistance from the heirs of the Benedicto landholdings, the TFM said.

Paro chief Felicidad Banares told the protesting farmers last week that she had already asked the DAR head office in Manila to expedite the resolution of the dispute.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

I convey my warmest greetings and felicitations to the men and women of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) on the occasion of your 30th Anniversary.

A truly democratic society is a society where its people can rely upon the justice system to uphold their rights and have full faith in its impartiality in resolving their grievances. Access to the courts and legal service for all is an essential requirement of justice and of strong democracy.

The establishment of the Public Attorney's Office is truly a triumphant event. The Public Attorney is a distinguished public servant whose embodies our society's efforts to protect the rights of the economically disadvantage by rendering free legal services. Often saddled with a heavy work load and numerous cases, the Public Attorney is an example of the dedicated civil servant whose toil directly impacts the lives of our people

I would like to express my appreciation to PAO for its participation in our effort to provide immediate response to the needs and problems of the most depressed communities in the country under the Kapit-bisig sa Kahirapan (KALAHI) Program. May you keep up the good job and remain committed to your mandate.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippine

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES COMPLEX
PASAY CITY

MESSAGE

My warmest felicitations to the Public Attorney's Office on its 30th Anniversary on October 23, 2002

Thirty years ago, Presidential Decree No. 1 and Letter of Implementation No. 4 created the Citizen' Legal Assistance Office (CLAO) and made it the legal protector of the rights of the poor. Its mandate encompasse civil, administrative, criminal and labor cases as well.

Thereafter, under Administrative Code of 1987, CLAO was renamed Public Attorney' Office during the tenure of Atty. Reynold Fajardo who upheld the standards of the profession in his more than two decades of service as Chief Public Attorney.

The succeeding years gave rise to recruitment of more lawyers and creation of more offices in the effort to extend free legal service to more underprivileged citizens.

PAO has evolved into an institution by itself in the field of laws. Thus, I commend the office for continually upholding justice and equality. You preserve the nobility of the law as a profession, the basic ideal of which is to render public service and secure justice for those who seek its aid.

I exhort the members of PAO, as well as all the members of the legal profession, to abide by their duties as worthy "officers of the court". The stately mission makes them important partners in nation building, as it distinguished members from a vital segment in the administration of justice-one of the pillars of our democracy.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA JR.
Vice-President
Republic of the Philippine

Republic of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

MESSAGE

The Public Attorney's Office celebrates another milestone in its three decades of existence. The momentous occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Public Attorney's Office on October 23, 2002, is a cause of celebration for our people as we have been the beneficiaries of its commitment to its mandate to render free legal service to the indigent sector of our society.

The Public Attorney's Office could be very well be considered as the "heart" of the legal provisions of the Constitution. Its mandate clearly underscores the need for socio-legal equity in our country in a sense that "those who have less in life should have more in law." For many of our poor people, the Public Attorney' Office is the veritable source of hope in their longings for the rule of law and justice.

As you move on to another year and generation of public service, I join our countrymen in fervently and praying for your continued success. May the Public Attorney's Office remain a steadfast pillar of democracy and freedom in our country.

Congratulations and more power to all!

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President

PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
5th Floor, DOJ Agencies Building, NIA Road cor. East Avenue, Quezon City

CELEBRATES ITS 30TH
FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 25, 2002

Theme: "ANG PAO AT ANG MASA, MAGKAISA TUNGO SA MATATAG NA REPUBLIKA."

THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (PAO):
A BRIEF HISTORY

The PAO came into being in response to the challenge for a government agency for the advancement and protection of legal rights of the less privileged sector of our society as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution.

The seed, as it were, of the PAO was planted on August 30, 1954, when R.A. No. 1199 created the Agricultural Tenancy Commission, which was later renamed as Tenancy Mediation Commission (TMC). With the passage on August 8, 1963 of R.A. No 3844, otherwise known as the "Agricultural Land reform Code". TMC was further strengthened and renamed as the Office of the Agrarian Counsel (OTAC).

However, the economic and social changes that occurred since then as well as the demands of the time, invariably blew the winds of public clamor for a more accessible legal service to our people, thus necessitating an expansion of agrarian related assistance provided by OTAC to include civil, criminal, administrative, and labor cases. This paved the way for the creation of Citizen's Legal Assistance Office (CLAO) under P.D. No. 1 and Implementation Order No. 4, dated October 23, 1972. The CLAO started out with a work force of 94 lawyers and an organizational set-up, which had 10 regional and 26 district offices.

With the advent of Administrative Code of 1987 (E.O. 292) on July, 1987, the CLAO was renamed Public Attorney's Office (PAO). The change being merely nominal, the mandate remained the same. That is to extend legal assistance free of charge to indigent persons in civil, criminal, administrative and labor cases.

Since its creation, the growth of the PAO was quiet and steady with 16 Regional Offices, 251 district offices, and 5 sub-district offices in existence at the end of the year 2001. There is also a rapid increase in the number of civil and criminal cases handled annually by the PAO, from approximately 169,205 in 1992 to over 408,145 in 2001. It was able to serve a total of 5,400,637 clients for the whole year of 2001, through its renditions of free legal services which include judicial and non-judicial services, medical and counseling, jail visitation, inquest workload underscore the fact that there is a demand for free legal services from the indigent sector of the Philippines that must be met if we would safeguard our kind of society. Keeping pace with this daunting task is an actual work force of 940 lawyers and 760 support staff nationwide

From January 2001 to September 2002, the PAO field lawyers have won 2,694 cases before the lower courts and other quasi-judicial and administrative bodies by way of acquittals and favorable judgement/decision in civil cases. The Special and Appealed cases Division (SACD), PAO-Central Office, was able to obtain 107 reduction of penalty from death to life from January 2001 to July 2002.It was also able to obtain 14 acquittals in the appealed cases of those accused who were sentenced to death by the lower courts.

No less than the UNICEF and the British Embassy have recognized the vital role the PAO plays in the justice system that they have magnanimously shared their resources to finance seminars/ workshops to further hone the skills of its lawyers. The World Bank and UNDP, has already signified its willingness to support trainings and seminars for PAO lawyers and possible assistance and donation of equipment.

The Supreme Court, PHILJA and MCLE Committee, in recognition of its mandate of providing free legal services to poor Filipinos, accredited the PAO as a mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) provider as of August 5, 2002, thereby allowing the PAO to conduct its own trainings and seminars for its lawyers.

Truly, the PAO has become more accessible to the indigent Filipino masses who are in dire need of legal assistance and services. It has become an institution on its own when it comes in providing free legal assistance to the whole nation.

The PAO past leadership who all contributed to its growth and expansion since its creation thirty (30) years ago, were as follows: Atty. Oscar M. Ontimare (CLAO) Reynold S. Fajardo, Josefina G. Bacal and Carina J. Demaisip

Today, the Chief Public Attorney is the Hon. Persida V. Rueda-Acosta, who is at the forefront of continuing PAO's mandate of providing free legal services to the poor. She catapulted the PAO to greater heights in the delivery of legal services through several assigned high-profile and celebrated cases such as: the May 1, 2001 rebellion case, the former Philippine President Estrada case, and the latest is the "Angelica" Rape Case.

MISSION

In order to focus its functions, the PAO set its sight on this Mission: to provide the indigent litigants free access to courts, judicial and quasi-judicial, by rendering legal assistance. This is in consonance with the Philippine Constitution which mandates that "free access to courts shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty (Sec. 11, Art. 3, 1987 Philippine Constitution)".

VISION

Its Vision is to be God-centered and be dynamic organization that is responsive to the ever-growing legal needs of the indigents led by highly competent, world-class, development oriented and nationalistic leaders.

In support of its Mission and Vision, the PAO adheres to the following objectives and thrust:

To provide the indigent clients with free legal services;

To provide the low-income and indigent sector access to counsel at the time of need; and

To implement the constitutional guarantee of free access to courts, due process and equal protection of the law and rights of a person under investigation for the commission of an offense.

PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

When someone asked the great Italian painter Raphael how he painted such wonderful pictures, he answered, "I simply dream dreams and see visions and then I paint around those visions." In like manner, it has always been my dream and vision for the PAO to be an agency which all other government agencies will be gauged, by virtue of excellence, integrity, professionalism and dynamism of its component officials, lawyers and staff.

From this humble beginnings thirty years ago, the PAO has truly gone a long way in terms of serving mileage, and has become a byword signifying new hope for justice and equity to our underprivileged and downtrodden fellowmen. As zealous defenders of the rights of the poor, we give life to the time-honored principle that those who have less in life should have more in law. However, the path we transverse as public servants is not without it share of obstacles. WE should rise above these challenges and see them as an inspiration to improve more PAO services to our poor fellowmen who, in their solitary struggle to overcome personal tragedies, have lost all hope in ever attaining justice for themselves or their loved ones. They are not alone for we are with them, fighting their fight to the best of abilities given to us.

ROUNDUP

Woman's body found

OLONGAPO CITY—A woman was found dead inside her house in Barangay Barretto here on Tuesday. Police said Emily Asotique, 30, succumbed to stab wounds in the abdomen. Police are looking for the suspect, Fernando Regalado, 32, the live-in partner of Asotique. Investigators could not yet determine the motive for the killing.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

NPA leader surrenders

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A New People's Army leader operating in Angeles City surrendered to police in Porac town last week. A belated report reaching this camp said Lito Sinanggote Jr., also known as "Nike" and head of an armed propaganda unit of the NPA's Palermo Ortanez Command, surrendered on Oct. 18. In Laur, Nueva Ecija, an Army official reported the discovery of the skeletal remains of a 16-year-old rebel in Barangay San Vicente. The rebel, Michael Austria, said to have been wounded in an encounter in July last year but was "left to die in the forests." Austria was identified through an ID found in his backpack.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Illegal structures

CABANATUAN CITY—The provincial government has started dismantling houses and other illegally built structures. Among those to be demolished are structures built along the national highway, riverbanks and irrigation canals, and those under bridges. Gov. Tomas Joson III said the displaced occupants would be relocated to areas provided for them by the provincial government. Joson said about 70 structures were demolished under the Doña Josefa bridge and along the riverbank near the boundary of Gapan City and San Leonardo town.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

New town proposed

MATI, Davao Oriental—The municipal council of Governor Generoso town has passed a resolution requesting the House of Representatives to enact a law creating a new municipality to comprise Barangays Tamban, Oregon, Magdug, Luzon, Tiblawan, Nangan, Surop, Tagabebe, Pundaguitan and Labigan. "There is a need to divide the municipality in order to enhance and promote socio-economic development. It will pave the way for the decentralization of development management of all areas to be affected by the division," the resolution said.

Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PEA road project slammed

MATI, Davao Oriental—Rep. Joel Mayo Almario (second district), chair of the House committee on Mindanao economic affairs, has called the alleged overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard of the Public Estates Authority "financial callousness at its height." He said that "spending P1.1 billion on a 2.3-kilometer asphalt road project when the rest of the government, including the local government units, is hard-pressed for funds in implementing vital infrastructure projects is simply unconscionable."

Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Logging operations of co-op suspended

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Council (PENRC) in Sarangani has ordered the immediate suspension of logging operations of the Zion Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Zifamulco).

In a parallel move, Sarangani Gov. Miguel Escobar ordered the immediate creation of a multisectoral task force to determine if Zifamulco violated any laws, rules and regulations, including the terms and conditions stipulated in the Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) it had signed with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 1999.

The agreement covers 6,613.33 hectares of forest areas in the Barangays of Upo, Batian and Zion, all in Maitum town, Sarangani. It has a term of 25 years and subject to renewal for another 25 years.

"Instead of preservation, what happened was destruction of our forest resources," Escobar said.

Escobar called for a PENRC meeting following reports that Zifamulco had employed destructive methods in harvesting trees on the top ridge of Datal Ibang and Mt. Pasil.

During the council's meeting held Tuesday at the governor's conference room in Sarangani, Escobar even went as far as recommending the termination of Zifamulco's CBFMA.

Mayor George Yabes of Maitum instead proposed the suspension of logging operations while waiting for the findings of the multisectoral body.

The task force will also draft operational guidelines to ensure that the operations of any CBFMA holder in the province are in accordance with forestry and environmental laws.

Escobar had earlier directed the local DENR office to furnish concerned local government units with copies of the collection reports and records of forest charges derived from the resources extracted in the CBFMA area. The LGUs are entitled to 40 percent of the total proceeds, he said.

Ismael Andang, provincial environment and natural resources officer, chided the local DENR officials for issuing permits to anyone to cut trees in areas considered public domain.

Andang was angered by reports that Zifamulco cut Falcata trees inside the former concession area of the Antonino-owned Mindanao Lumber Development Corp. (Miludeco) in the boundary of Maitum and Kiamba towns.

"The DENR is not supposed to allow cutting of trees in public land," he said.

During the meeting, Supt. Willie Dangane, acting provincial police director, said that two DENR officials were financing the cutting of trees in the areas covered by the Integrated Social Forestry in Kiamba.

But Dangane refused to name the officials.

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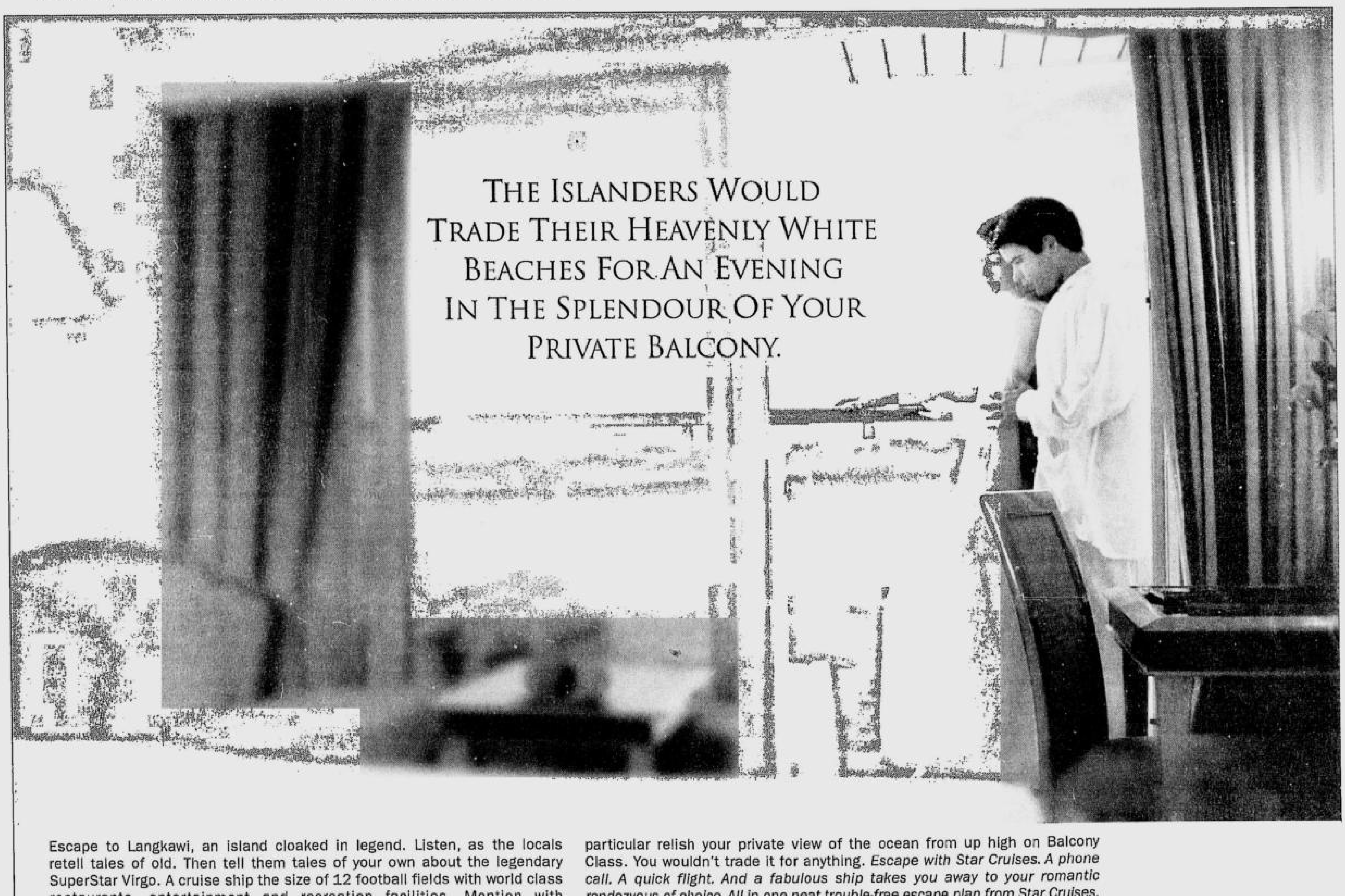
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'MILF coddling bomber'

From page A1

gence officer involved in the hunt for Yunos told INQ7.net.

"He is on the run from us and from the MILF who wants him dead because he is the living evidence to their links to the JI," the officer said.

JI or Jemaah Islamiah is a radical Muslim group based in Malaysia but with cells in Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines.

"We are working on him, the intelligence groups are working on Muklis," the officer added. He said Yunos has also been charged in court for the Rizal Day bombing in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000 that killed more than 20 and injured over a hundred.

But Yunos has eluded arrest. His accomplice and former classmate at a school on explosives in Pakistan, Fathur Roman Al-Ghozi, was arrested in January this year and is now held in maximum security in Camp Crame where he's serving a 12-year sentence for possession of explosives.

Police said that Yunos had plotted the bombings with alleged mastermind Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, self-confessed member of the Jemaah Islamiah widely believed to be linked to al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

Recent sighting in Metro

The officer also confirmed that Yunos was sighted in Metro Manila recently, adding that the other intelligence units are also tracking down the elusive bomb and explosives expert believed to be the leader of a terrorist group behind the spate of bombings not only in Metro Manila but also in Zamboanga City.

A police document has identified Yunos as the commanding officer of the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces of the MILF.

Yunos disowned

The MILF, however, has denied that Yunos is a member of the MILF. They also appealed to the government to stop linking the group to the JI or the al-Qaida movement of Osama bin Laden.

Jannati Mimbantas, MILF vice chair for internal affairs, also denied that its members are involved in the latest spate of bombings in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila.

"The MILF is fighting a defensive war. We don't send terrorists to hurt women and children to advance our cause," Mimbantas said.

Mimbantas and MILF spokesperson for Lanao del Sur Rudy Radiomoda met with INQ7 and INQUIRER reporters somewhere in Marawi City to air their denial and appeal for the government to stop linking the MILF to the bombings and terrorist organizations.

Mimbantas admitted that what he called the government smear campaign has created an unfavorable image problem for the MILF.

That is the reason, Mimbantas said, the MILF has decided to stop allowing foreign Muslim missionaries into their camps in Mindanao.

"We have stopped this practice since the Philippine and US government have tagged these missionaries terrorists," he said.

When the MILF main camp in Abubakar, Maguindanao, fell to government hands in July 2000, hundreds of passports of Saudi Arabians, Pakistanis, Indonesians and Malaysians were found by soldiers in its bombed out shelters.

But Mimbantas said the passports belong to the missionaries of the World Muslim League, an international Islamic missionary group.

"We accepted them as our Muslim brothers. After all we all go to Mecca," Mimbantas said referring to the revered Islamic shrine in Saudi Arabia.

He said the missionaries brought money to Camp Abubakar not to train terrorists but to build mosques and Madrasahs.

"It is a pity that they are tagged as terrorists by the US and Philippine governments," Mimbantas said. ***With a report from Froilan Gallardo, INQ7.net contributor***

Terror in Moscow: Chechen gunmen hold ...

From page A1

middle of a musical Wednesday night and demanded that Russia end the war in Chechnya.

At press time, more than 100 women and children had been released, Moscow police spokesperson Valery Gribakin said. The freed hostages were sobbing and shaking as they emerged.

Appearing on nationwide television, Putin ordered his police and security chiefs to make sure that none of the hostages was harmed.

The hostage drama in a working class district just 4 km from the Kremlin was a bitter blow for Putin, who repeatedly has said Russia was on top of the situation in Chechnya, a Muslim republic in southern Russia.

Putin, who worked throughout the night in his Kremlin office, scrapped a trip to Germany and Portugal on Thursday. He also canceled his trip to the Apec summit this weekend in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where he was to meet with US President George W. Bush. Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov will travel to Mexico in his place.

Russian authorities held talks with the hostage takers; the contact broke off early Thursday but were reestablished in the afternoon, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

A man and a woman carrying a white flag entered the building about 1:20 p.m. (0920 GMT). Their identities could not be determined from a distance, but the hostage-takers earlier had demanded to talk with Boris Nemtsov and Irina Khakamada, two of Russian's most prominent liberal politicians.

A US Embassy spokesperson said two Americans—a man and a woman—were among the hostages. Citizens of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Australia, Azerbaijan and Germany also were confirmed to be among the hostages.

"People are close to a nervous breakdown," said hostage Maria Shkolnikova, who spoke with Echo of Moscow radio by cell phone. She added that the hostages had been fed only water and chocolate.

The Interfax news agency reported that the top Red Cross official in Moscow, Michel Minning, arrived at the scene about an hour later. Minning was among the negotiators in the 1997 hostage-taking at the Japanese Embassy in Lima, Peru.

The hostage-takers told a Chechen deputy to the federal parliament who was serving as a mediator that they wanted Russia to pull out its troops in Chechnya and call a ceasefire in the three-year-old war.

A Chechen rebel website said the Russians had seven days to begin the troop withdrawal or the theater and hostages would be blown up.

Belts with explosives

Lawmaker Yuli Rybakov said the rebels had with them automatic weapons, grenades, belts with explosives attached, mines and canisters with gasoline. There was little water or food available for the panicky hostages.

One hostage told the Echo of Moscow radio station that the rebels had attached explosives to theater chairs, columns, walls and aisles as well as their own bodies.

As dawn approached, Russian troops in full combat gear patrolled the area; armored personnel carriers were parked near the theater. Russian snipers were spotted on the roofs of buildings near the theater.

"It's a tragic situation that shows us once again the kind of world we are living in." US Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Cabo San Lucas. He expressed hope the situation would be resolved peacefully.

"It is clear that this has been done to produce effect, first of all at international forums ... (including) the Apec summit," said Dmitri Rogozin, chair of the foreign affairs committee of the lower house of parliament.

In Washington, White House spokesperson Sean McCormack said in a statement that "the American government and the American people stand with the people of Russia at this difficult moment. There are no causes or national aspirations that justify the taking of innocent hostages."

Heart of Russia

The raid once again brought home to the heart of Russia a war seen so far off by many Russians despite the growing number of military and civilian casualties.

Several hostages, speaking by cell phone to various Russian television stations and news agencies, pleaded with Russian authorities not to use force. Previous attempts by Russian authorities to resolve similar incidents involving Chechens ended in bloodshed.

A hostage said the rebels had told them their family members had perished in the war and that they had nothing to lose.

Russian security forces do not intend to storm the building unless the hostage takers start killing the hostages, said Gennady Gudkov, deputy chair of the parliamentary committee on security. "It could be days" before the situation is resolved, he said.

Vladimir Lukin, former Russian ambassador to Washington and a leading liberal lawmaker, said the hostage-taking showed that the effectiveness of Russian law enforcement agencies was "zero."

While Putin's popularity remains high, public support for the war as expressed in opinion polls has dropped in recent months.

Crackle of gunfire

The crackle of automatic gunfire rang out on at least four occasions. An explosion reverberated in the area Wednesday, but its location and source were not immediately determined.

Gribakin said there were 40-50 armed attackers and about 600 people inside the theater when it was seized. The theater holds 1,163 people and 711 tickets had been sold.

A woman who made her way out of the theater told Russia's NTV television that men wearing camouflage uniforms went on stage, fired in the air and said: "Don't you understand what's going on? We are Chechens."

The armed men and women arrived in jeeps just as the second act was about to begin. When police and security forces surrounded the theater, the attackers opened fired and threw a grenade.

The Interfax news agency, quoting released hostages, said there were pools of blood in the hall of the theater but no casualties. Other hostages reported that the attackers had beaten up some spectators.

Russian news agencies cited a Chechen rebel website as saying the group was led by Movsar Barayev, nephew of warlord Arbi Barayev, who reportedly died last year. The website said some of the women hostage takers were widows of Chechen rebels. On the website, the hostage-takers called themselves "smertniki," Russian word for fighters who die for a cause.

Compared to Sept. 11

"By the scope it can only be compared to the tragedy in New York. The situation is extreme now," liberal lawmaker Boris Nemtsov said on TVS television.

Over the past decade Chechen rebels have been involved in a number of bold, often bloody hostage-taking situations in southern Russian provinces, especially in Dagestan.

Russian forces left Chechnya in 1996 after a disastrous two-year war, but they returned in 1999 after rebels raided a neighboring region. Authorities also blamed rebels for a series of apartment bombings in Russia that killed more than 300 people.

The theater, a former Soviet-era House of Culture that belonged to a ball-bearing plant, was staging a performance of the musical "Nord-Ost," one of Moscow's most popular productions.

The musical is based on Veniamin Kaverin's novel "Two Captains." The romantic novel recounts the story of two students and their different destinies during the Soviet times. *AP*

Relatives spend night of anguish in the cold

MOSCOW—Hundreds of relatives and friends of the hostages held in a Moscow theater by Chechen rebels stood in the cold and rain overnight Wednesday in the hope of learning news of their loved ones.

Some were worrying for their wives, others for their mothers or their grandsons. All of those standing in front of the theater under an icy drizzle appeared resigned and fatalistic.

Two men drinking cognac to fight off the cold, Mikhail and Sergei, said their wives had gone to see "Nord-Ost," a popular musical that has been playing to packed houses for the past year, and were still trapped in the theater.

"Our wives went to see the show without us because we were working at the time," one of them said. "Let's drink and hope it works out well."

But another man standing near them was far more pessimistic. "I don't trust these people (the hostage takers), this can't end well," he said.

A visibly distressed young woman, Yulya, waited with her boyfriend for the release of her mother. "My mother is inside. She was able to call us on the telephone to say she was all right, but I feel so hopeless," she said.

An old woman in tears said her grandson, a theater employee, was among the captives. "I went to church to pray and then I came here. I don't know what to do, it is so terrible," she said. *AFP*

Hunted man ...

From page A1

Gumbahale admitted seeing Yunos at a meeting in Quiapo, Manila, where the the deadly explosions in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000 was hatched. The bombings killed more than 20 people. By his own admission, Gumbahale planted a bomb at a gasoline station in Makati and inside a bus in Cubao, Quezon City, that day.

Delfin, police director for intelligence, said the TNT bomb used in the bus explosion last week was the same type set off by "Yunos and his group" at the Plaza Ferguson in Manila on Dec. 30, 2000. "We believe this is the work of the group of (Fathur Rohman) al-Ghozi and Yunos," he said.

Police said that Yunos had plotted the bombings with the alleged Indonesian mastermind, Al-Ghozi, who is serving a jail term for possession of a cache of explosives.

Police and military sources earlier disclosed that Yunos and his cohorts, including two Indonesians, were being hunted down in connection with the bomb that exploded inside a passenger bus on Edsa.

Delfin did not discount the possible involvement of the Abu Sayyaf in the bus explosion. Five suspected Abu Sayyaf members were monitored to have arrived in Manila from Jolo, Sulu, days before the bus explosion. Police have yet to establish if they had a hand in the bomb attack.

Delfin also confirmed that police were tracking down two Indonesian cohorts of Al-Ghozi for possible involvement in the bus explosion. He was referring to Taufik and Hassan, who buried a ton of explosives that was later dug up by police at the rented home of Al-Ghozi in General Santos City. The pair had managed to escape before the police arrived.

"We are looking for them," Delfin said of the Indonesians. "While we have no evidence against them, it's possible that they provided the funds or helped in the manufacture of bombs."

In Zamboanga, police disarmed Tuesday a car rigged with explosives before four of the five bombing suspects were arrested.

Car bomb

Agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and local police found a red Toyota Corolla car parked in front of the History Hotel on Gov. Lim Boulevard at around 3:15 p.m. Police ordnance experts removed an explosive device from the car and immediately detonated it.

Arrested at the scene was Buyungan Bungkak, 19. Three hours earlier, his alleged cohorts, Abdul Jamin Asanul Habi, 18; Bas Jumail, 18; Madznul Abdula Ladja, 23; and Rajak Sagumayan, 27, were rounded up in Barangay Guiwan.

During the raid on the boarding house, the operatives recovered a diagram showing how to make a car bomb and registration papers of the car, among other pieces of evidence. Based on these, they traced the car at the hotel, a police official said. The car was registered under a certain Antonio Fernandez of Ecoland Davao.

Test mission

Delfin theorized that the five suspects were on a test mission. "Apparently they were being tested if they could carry out the bombings. If you noticed they are very young. They're like the young people who are being recruited by the NPA (New People's Army)," he said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez ordered yesterday the filing of charges of illegal possession of explosives and firearms against the five suspects with the Zamboanga City regional trial court after they were inquested the other night.

The charges, however, are bailable, according to State Prosecutor Ruben Zacarias, who inquested the suspects at the justice department building in Manila.

Zacarias said that under Presidential Decree 1866, those charged with illegal possession of explosives could be released after posting a P200,000 bail, while those charged with possession of firearms could pay P80,000.

He said three of the suspects would be charged with illegal possession of firearms, while the rest would be indicted for illegal possession of explosives. But Zacarias said he could not indict the five with murder charges. "We only inquested them for illegal possession. But the investigation (by the police) is still ongoing."

In Kidapawan City, authorities trying to solve the Oct. 10 blast that killed seven people suffered a setback.

Datu Musin Mamintal, who was earlier named mastermind of the bombing, was released Wednesday after four days in military custody because authorities had failed to file charges against him.

Datu Ali Sultan, the man who allegedly left the bomb in the bus terminal in Kidapawan, retracted his statement tagging Mamintal as the one who ordered him to do so.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, in Manila, and Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

GMA to Apec in Mexico to talk terror, not trade

From page A1

Despite the divisive forces they face, those in attendance emphasized the mission of Apec: to bring economies together in an age of globalization and make trade flow more freely.

"There is concern (about terrorism), but we have to ensure that legitimate trade does not get affected," said Ng Kim Neo, a member of the Apec Committee on Trade and Investment. "What we would like to ensure is more secure flow of trade, without the issue of being more secure hampering legitimate trade."

Breaking protocol

As if to emphasize a new sense of urgency, the President left without giving a pre-departure speech. It was the first time Ms Macapagal, or any President before her, left the country without the traditional send-off ceremonies.

According to protocol, the Vice President, Cabinet members, Congress leaders, the top brass of the police and military, and foreign diplomats should be in attendance.

The President delivers a speech about the purpose of her trip, then goes down the line of well-wishers before boarding the plane. The entire affair is over in less than half an hour. State-owned TV and radio stations also usually broadcast the departure ceremonies live.

But not yesterday.

Upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Ms Macapagal and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo went straight to government officials and diplomats who were lined up beside the red carpet.

She shook hands with all of them and chatted with some, including spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

She was aboard Philippine Airlines commercial flight PR 100 in less than five minutes.

Tiglao said the President wanted to report the results and not the purpose of her trip. "It saves time, and the President's time is an important commodity," he added.

Ms Macapagal will make an overnight visit to Honolulu, Hawaii, where she will meet with US Sen. Daniel Inouye and Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command.

Russian dilemma

The Moscow crisis has complicated the Americans' uphill battle to overcome Russian reservations over a tough UN resolution on Iraqi weapons inspections.

Apec members also were scrambling to find a response to the confession by "axis of evil" member North Korea that it has a nuclear weapons program.

Bush will hunker down with leaders of North Asian allies Japan and South Korea in three-way talks to piece together a joint approach to the threat and will also address the issue with other Apec members.

Bush will also meet Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, after Washington warned in the wake of the Bali blast that she could no longer pretend terrorism did not exist in her country.

Yesterday, the United States wasted no time in telling its Apec partners they needed to move quickly in imposing strict migration, airport and port controls as part of the global anti-terrorism push.

Washington is pushing a series of tough proposals, including more effective baggage screening and tighter immigration controls, closer screening of passengers on international flights and reinforcing flight deck doors.

The US proposals focus on boosting security and migration controls at airports and ports, and set a series of deadlines for compliance.

If airliners do not meet the April 2003 deadline for reinforcing flight deck doors on passenger flights, they will be barred from landing at US airports, Mineta said. "Our method of enforcement is to say, 'You can't come in,'" he said.

Other measures in Washington's so-called STAR Initiative include putting seals on international cargo containers, introducing fingerprint technology on travel documents, much more sophisticated baggage screening and better flows of information between nations on possibly dangerous passengers.

Mineta said failure to meet deadlines did not mean the United States would stop doing business with noncomplying nations but simply that cargo shipments that had not been subjected to the new security norms would undergo rigorous checks once they arrive at US ports.

Several Apec members worry that adopting the US-proposed security policies is expensive and say they will need help—technical and possibly financial—in meeting any deadlines.

"There is a legitimate position that they have to adopt security measures but there needs to be a fine-tuning so that they do not put a cost on trade," said Ricardo Lagos Weber, a senior Chilean official at the summit meeting in the plush Mexican resort of Los Cabos.

Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

With reports from Dona Pazzibugan; AFP, AP, Reuters

Cotabato boy abused; Iloilo teenager freed

From page A1

The photos were sent with a ransom note demanding P5 million for the safe release of her only son, said Judith Montederamos, a resident of Barangay Apopong here.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, the mother aired a plea to the kidnappers that the boy not be harmed. "I have no money to pay the ransom," she said between sobs. "I am appealing to you to just release my son."

The boy was reported missing on Aug. 5, but Montederamos was not convinced then that he had been kidnapped.

She nursed the suspicion that the abduction was a result of a family feud—until she received the photos.

According to Montederamos, the boy's kidnappers expected to extort a hefty sum from her family after learning of her relationship with a Japanese national.

They wrongly thought the boy was fathered by her Japanese partner and were unaware that the relationship—along with the P10,000 financial support that she used to receive from her lover—had long been over, she said.

Montederamos said the kidnappers promised to release the boy last weekend but did not do so.

Senior Supt. Jorge Aquisap, city police chief, said the kidnappers had since lowered the ransom demand to P300,000—an amount that Montederamos said she still could not raise.

Aquisap said they had received information that Miyangkang Saguile, a known kidnap gang leader in the region, turned the boy over to another kidnap group.

The police earlier planned to rescue the boy, but the family asked them to desist pending the results of negotiations with the kidnappers.

13-year-old

In Iloilo City, a kidnapped son of a Chinese-Filipino businessman was freed Wednesday night, eight days after the 13-year-old was abducted near his school.

Police yesterday arrested six men in connection with the kidnapping of Jefferson Tan, a case that has raised grave concern among the business community in the city.

The kidnappers reportedly demanded P50 million in ransom, but Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro, police regional director for Western Visayas, said no ransom was paid.

"The kidnappers were forced to release (Tan) because they felt persistent monitoring of their whereabouts. They probably felt the noose tightening around their necks," Navarro said at a news conference.

"The boy is now with his parents," Navarro said.

But Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas quoted a police source as telling him that Tan was freed after his family paid P3 million in ransom.

And as in the case of the kidnapping of the children of Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma, the government's so-called "tried and tested formula" was instrumental in Tan's release, Trenas told the INQUIRER.

Sammy Celestial, Tan's maternal grandfather, said the boy's freedom was all that mattered. "Thank you for your prayers," Celestial said in an interview with radio station dyFM.

Three men abducted Tan on Oct. 15 as he was leaving the Iloilo Central Commercial High School inside the Ledesco Village in La Paz district aboard a Honda CR-V.

A man riding a bicycle feigned a collision with Tan's vehicle as it was about to leave the subdivision. The kidnappers took over the vehicle when Tan's driver stopped to check on the bicycle rider.

Tan, the driver and a classmate who hitched a ride with them were taken to Barangay Tacas in Jaro district, where Tan was transferred to another vehicle. His classmate and driver were released unharmed.

Celestial said the boy told of being locked in a room where he was regularly fed.

According to Navarro, Tan was released at 9:15 p.m. Wednesday in Mandurriao district and took a taxi home.

Celestial refused to say whether ransom was paid. But he said in the radio interview that "the amount or money paid as ransom was only second" to prayers in his grandson's release.

6 arrested

Navarro said police arrested six men in separate operations that lasted until past midnight yesterday. A .45 cal. pistol was seized from one of them.

He declined to name the six pending the filing of charges of kidnapping and illegal possession of firearms.

He said two of those arrested were considered principal suspects, and the rest, accessories to the crime. Three other principal suspects are at large.

Navarro also said the kidnappers were all based in Iloilo but part of a criminal gang "with connections in Manila."

Trenas said he was very pleased with Tan's release. But he said the case was "not completely solved."

The mayor held a closed-door meeting with Iloilo business leaders and school heads Tuesday night to discuss the security situation and the measures being undertaken by police and the city government.

With reports from Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau; AFP

'Bomb killer' ...

From page A1

can simply be thrown over a bomb to contain an explosion, said Sema, which specializes in bullet-proof vests and devices to counter Anthrax mail.

Theme parks have already placed orders, according to Charles Laubie, Sema managing director.

Laubie said the potential market was big, considering the number of recent bomb attacks in countries ranging from Finland to the Philippines. This month, the country was hit by five explosions—three in Zamboanga City and one in Metro Manila—that killed 20 people and injured hundreds.

Sema has developed a second kit that airline crews could deploy in seconds to stop a grenade or other explosive from downing a plane.

The airline kit, called a "Flight Bomb Killer" or FBK, could be wrapped around an explosive in about five seconds, sealing the device hermetically and containing the explosion, Laubie said.

He said "the FBK would require some training but the GBK needs none at all."

The bag-like products are made of ultra-strong materials capable of containing an explosion in the air of a fragmentation grenade or an explosive charge "of at least the size in the Paris-Miami case," Laubie said.

He was referring to the case in which Briton Richard Reid is accused of trying to blow up a plane using explosives hidden in his shoes. Reid allegedly tried to light explosives in his shoes with a match but was overpowered by air stewards and some of the 197 passengers on the plane which landed safely in Boston.

The GBK could handle even bigger bombs.

The FBK, whose measurements allow for rapid deployment in the aisle between aircraft seats, will carry a price tag of 15,000 to 20,000 euros. The GBK, which will come in four sizes, will be sold at 1,500 to 5,200 euros.

Both are expected to be available for sale next month.

"People we've talked to have all said, 'Why didn't you think of this before. It's so simple,'" Laubie said, adding that potential customers from France, Europe and the Middle East have expressed interest in the inventions.

"First there was Sept. 11, then there was Anthrax and then there was the Paris-Miami flight last December," he said. *Reuters*

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929-70-41 to 43

October 22, 2002

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2002-22**

SUBJECT : Deletion of Footnote No. 3 of DAO # 2000-18 (Chemical Control Order for Ozone Depleting Substances)

In view of the clear provisions of paragraph (a) of (1) of Section 3.2.5 of Department Administrative Order No. 18, Series of 2000 ("DAO #2000-18") that the annual imports for the years 1999 to 2010 shall not exceed the corresponding percentages of the **"1996 *recorded* imports by weight,"** and so as to preclude erroneous interpretations of the foregoing DAO 2000-18, Footnote #3 of the said DAO, which states that **"the 1996 levels were only estimated consumption based on available data. An allowance of 75% is added to consider unaccounted imports,"** is hereby deleted.

The deletion of the said Footnote No. 3 is further justified by the lack of technical, legal and factual bases therefore, and the clear commitment of the Philippines to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer.

The heretofore Footnote No. 4, onwards, are hereby renumbered accordingly.

All orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

This Order shall take effect 15 days after publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

(Sgd.) HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
Secretary

October 25, 2002 – Inquirer

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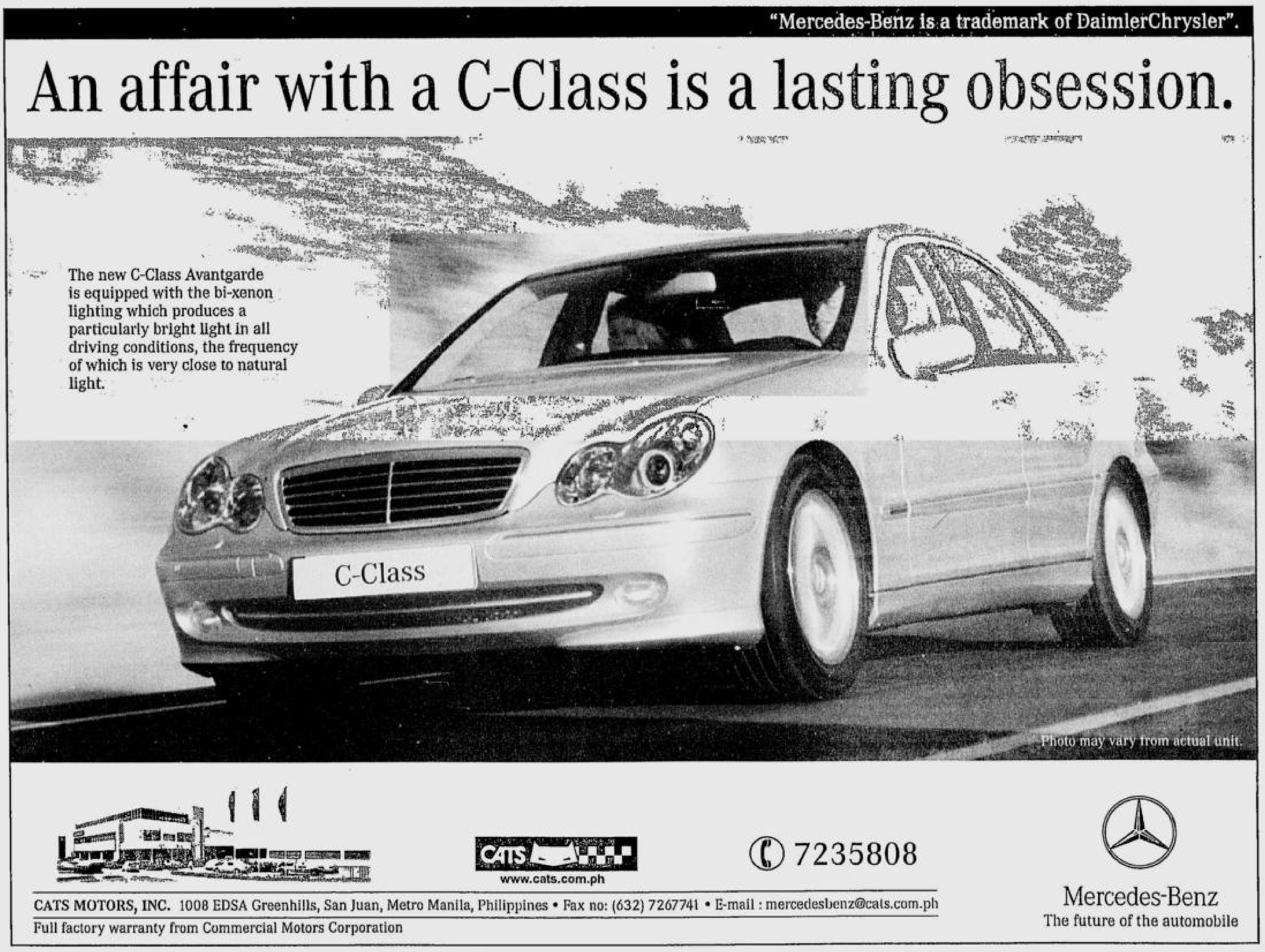

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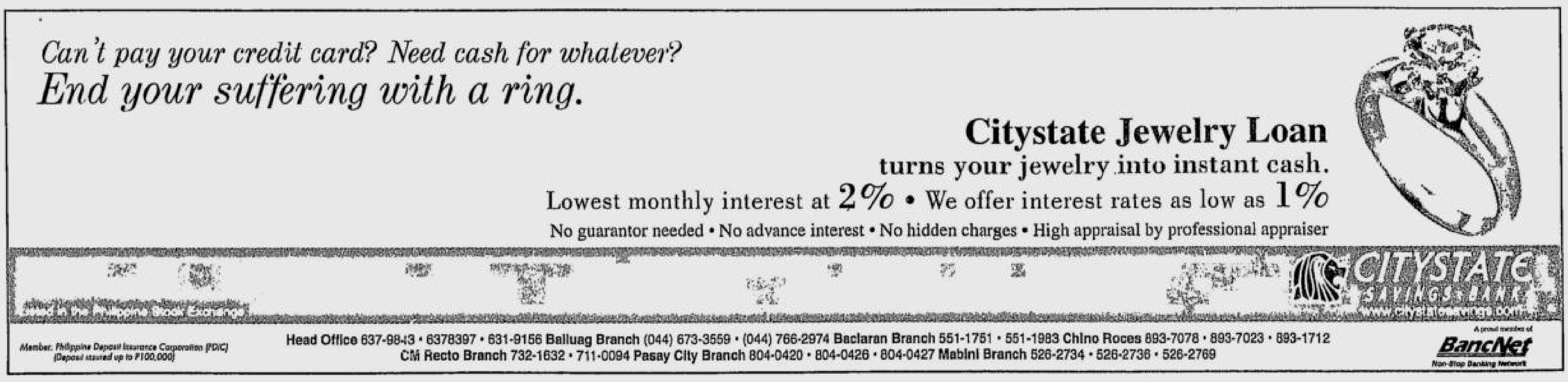

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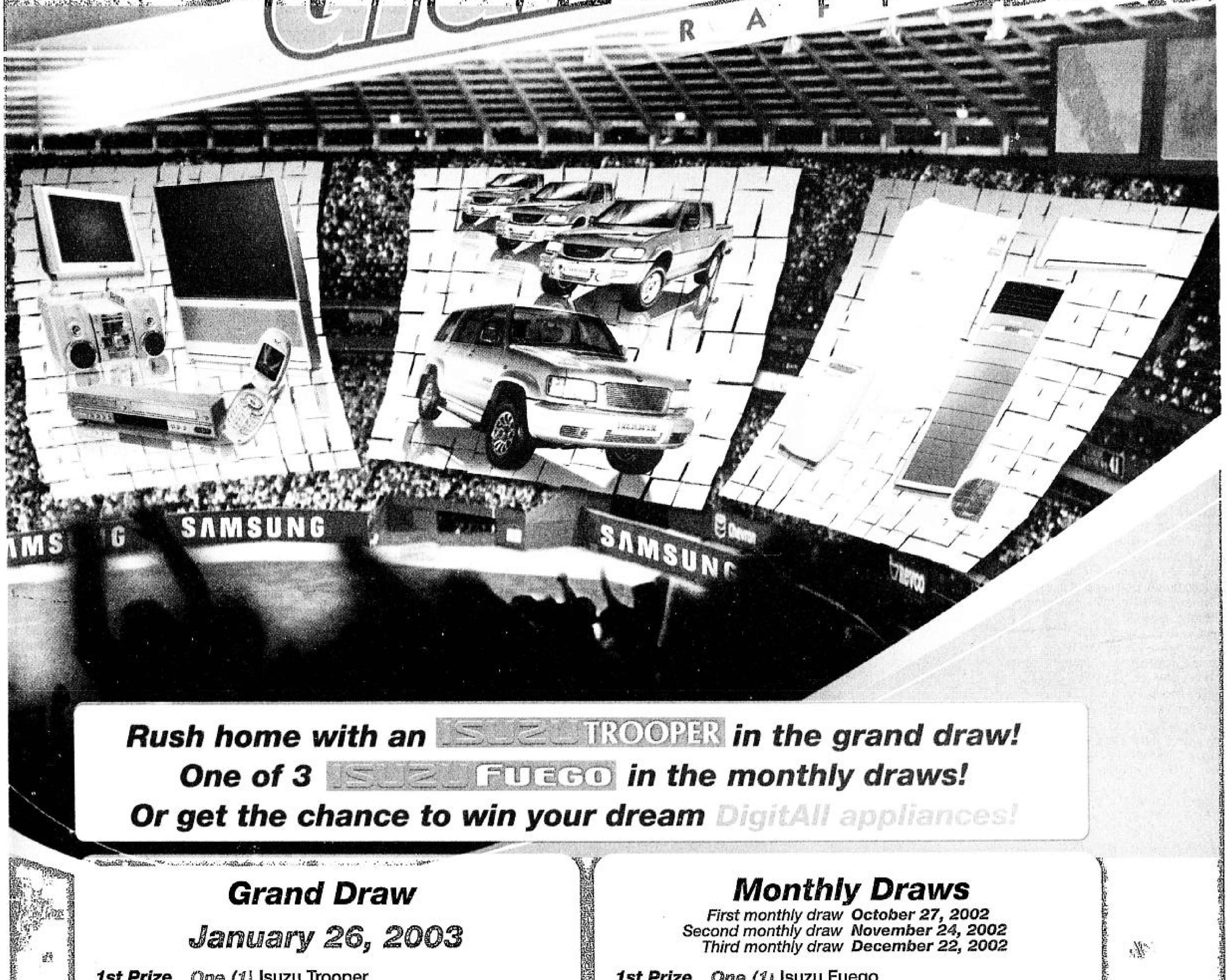

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4th Prize	*One (1)*	SR-S20NTC Side-by-Side Refrigerator
5th Prize	*One (1)*	CT-29M6P Flat TV
6th Prize	*One (1)*	CT-29K3W Flat TV
7th Prize	*One (1)*	AS-09A8MB Split-Type Aircon
8th Prize	*One (1)*	T100 Color TFT LCD Cellphone
9th Prize	*One (1)*	DVD-8500 DVD Combo Player
10th Prize	*One (1)*	MAX-VL85 VCD Mini Component
11th Prize	*One (1)*	WA-90K2S Washing Machine

Monthly Draws
First monthly draw ***October 27, 2002***
Second monthly draw ***November 24, 2002***
Third monthly draw ***December 22, 2002***

1st Prize	*One (1)*	Isuzu Fuego
2nd Prize	*One (1)*	ST-43T6P Projection TV
3rd Prize	*One (1)*	AP-2480B/BC Package Aircon
4th Prize	*One (1)*	SR-S20NTC Side-by-Side Refrigerator
5th Prize	*One (1)*	CT-29M6P Flat TV
6th Prize	*One (1)*	CT-29K3W Flat TV
7th Prize	*One (1)*	AS-09A8MB Split-Type Aircon
8th Prize	*One (1)*	T100 Color TFT LCD Cellphone
9th Prize	*One (1)*	DVD-8500 DVD Combo Player
10th Prize	*One (1)*	MAX-VL85 VCD Mini Component
11th Prize	*One (1)*	WA-90K2S Washing Machine

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- October 27, 2002 draw	*(October 15, 2002)*
- November 24, 2002 draw	*(November 15, 2002)*
- December 22, 2002 draw	*(December 15, 2002)*
- January 26, 2003 draw	*(January 15, 2003)*

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Moving South? Tell that to the Marines

From page A1

"It's a very, very big decision we have to make. It's still being studied. So the President ordered us to look into it very, very seriously. And that's what we're doing now," Reyes said.

The defense chief said he had not been able to listen to the President's speech in Cebu the other day.

"I have to find out the context," he said, when told the President had given a direct order.

Reyes took Tiglao aside and spoke to him for several minutes before Tiglao clarified the President's order.

"The order was to study it," Tiglao said.

Family members

Tiglao said one major consideration was the fact that the families of administrative personnel reside in Metro Manila.

"We have to take that into account and the defense department will be very sensitive about the needs of soldiers' families," he stressed.

But Ladia said proximity of family members was not the issue.

"We are the only unit in the AFP which is discouraged from bringing our families (to our place of assignment). That is why we regularly rotate our battalions," Ladia said.

Ladia said the Marines were not a "territorial force" but an expeditionary force that is assigned to different parts of the country at a moment's notice.

"We can work better if our families are not with us or will not follow us," he explained.

But the real issue, Ladia said, was proximity to the seat of power.

"We heard about (the) Kabatangan (complex as an alternative site). (We) welcome that but our headquarters should still be here in Fort Bonifacio because the seat of government is here, so our presence somehow helps (against any coup) . . . I am not saying (that there would be a coup) but our presence here serves as a deterrent. It helps (to be near) the seat of government," he added, speaking in a mix of Filipino and English.

Ladia took pains to say that his statements were not meant to question the President's decision.

"This is not tantamount to questioning the decision of the commander-in-chief, but there are more benefits if the Marines are based (in Fort Bonifacio). . . If that is the decision of the President, we will comply. I can move my armor and assets there," he added.

Isolated area

Biazon said the Philippines will be the only country in the world where the headquarters of its national security department will be isolated in a far-flung area.

"The DND is a national agency. Its headquarters therefore must always be in the nerve center of government which is the capital of the nation, where all the branches of the government are located," he said.

The Marines, he added, was a national maneuver force, which means it could be deployed to any part of the country.

This special capability of the Marines, Biazon said, was not only anchored on combat capability but more prominently on its tradition of institutional loyalties.

He said that during the critical period after Edsa 1 where there was a threat to the seat of government in Manila, it was the Marine soldiers who were based in Manila who figured prominently in its defense.

But he forgot to mention that Marines were also involved in several coup attempts.

The AFP spokesperson, however, tried to put a positive spin on the transfer. Retired general Eduardo Purificacion said it wont compromise security in Metro Manila.

"We have enough, more than enough forces coming from the other forces, like the Army, the Air Force and the Navy . . . to thwart any threat," Purificacion said.

Filipinos hold key posts in JI

From page A1

States had long had concerns about the JI and that the designation process was underway before the bomb attack in Bali.

According to the United States, the JI has the goal of creating an Islamic state comprising Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Southern Philippines.

Domingo said Filipino Muslim militants were receiving from the JI "two things: one, they get money, and two, they get training."

"There are some Filipinos who would be high-ranking and who could participate in the planning and organizing" of attacks by the JI, she said without naming names.

Indonesian authorities have arrested alleged JI founder Abu Bakar Bashir in connection with the bomb attack in Bali that killed nearly 200 people, mostly Australians. Bashir, a Muslim cleric, has consistently denied knowledge of terrorism activities.

But Domingo said the Bali and Zamboanga attacks "seem to be separate events" with the same objective. "We have no information linking the Bali bombing with the Zamboanga bombings," she added.

In Canberra, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Thursday that 47 countries so far were supporting US and Australian efforts to get the United Nations Security Council to declare the Jemaah Islamiah a terrorist group with links to al-Qaida.

Such a declaration would direct the 190 UN members to freeze the JI's assets, prevent sales of weapons to it, and stop its members from traveling through the countries.

Australian representatives in New York submitted a formal request Monday night to the UN Security Council calling for the terrorist declaration, Downer said in a statement.

"I am confident that the listing will proceed smoothly," he said.

But of the 15 members of the Security Council, only seven—Mauritius, Norway, Singapore, Britain, the United States, Ireland and France—have indicated support. That leaves Mexico, Russia, Syria, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia and Guinea to state their position.

35th group

Downer also said he welcomed the US designation of the Jemaah Islamiah as a terrorist group.

The designation makes the JI the 35th group to be thus branded by the US state department. Among the 35 is the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Australia and the United States campaigned for the terrorist declaration this week by circulating a report among UN members blaming the JI for several deadly bombings.

Downer said Australia's request identified key figures in the JI and their links to al-Qaida; showed proof of the JI's ability and intent to conduct terrorist attacks; and included its admissions of helping to plan and finance bombings in the Philippines and Indonesia.

Powell said the United States hoped that the terrorist designation and the request to the UN Security Council would "put Jemaah Islamiyah out of the terrorism business."

He said that the JI planned to conduct bombings of the US Embassy in Singapore in December 2001 and that its members arrested in Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines had revealed links with al-Qaida.

The United States blames al-Qaida for last year's Sept. 11 attacks on America that killed more than 3,000 people, and has vowed to destroy the network.

'Strong tool'

A senior US state department official said on condition of anonymity that the actions against the Jemaah Islamiah would give the United States and its allies a "strong tool" against terrorism.

"Everyone wants to have this hierarchical view of al-Qaida. Clearly there are JI members who have trained in Afghanistan. There are relationships between senior people in JI and al-Qaida-related individuals. But to say JI is taking day-to-day orders, that's not how al-Qaida works," the official said, adding:

"This is not going to take down JI tomorrow, but it will provide a very strong tool for us and our partners as we apply the rule of law, as we investigate, as we arrest, and as we prosecute members of the JI organization for their terrorist activities."

In his statement distributed to reporters in Washington, Powell said the United States was sending "a powerful signal" that the countries of Southeast Asia would not tolerate terrorism.

The US' designation of JI as terrorist could strengthen US President George W. Bush's hand in talks this weekend with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Powell, who will participate in the talks, said he hoped the Oct. 12 bomb attack in Bali "reinforces Indonesia's determination to deal with this kind of threat."

Reports from INQUIRER *wires*

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

WORLD SERIES

Bell rings as Giants tie Angels, 2-all

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

BELL

SAN FRANCISCO—David Bell hit a tiebreaking single off rookie sensation Francisco Rodriguez in the eighth inning Wednesday as the San Francisco Giants rallied past the Anaheim Angels 4-3 to tie the World Series at two games each.

The Giants slowed down Anaheim's persistent hitters and broke through against Rodriguez to post San Francisco's first Series win at home since 1962, setting off fog horn blasts from the nearby bay.

"I was just trying to get a pitch over the plate I could hit hard," Bell said. "He has great stuff and he's been doing a good job."

Rodriguez had dismissed all 12 San Francisco hitters he had faced in the Series until J.T. Snow singled to start the eighth inning. Snow moved up on Bengie Molina's passed ball, but stayed put when first baseman Scott Spiezio made a sensational, diving catch on Reggie Sanders' foul bunt.

Bell singled sharply past diving shortstop David Eckstein. Snow scored ahead of center fielder Darin Erstad's throw, and the celebration was on.

Bell, son of Colorado Rockies manager and former All Star Buddy Bell, became the latest offspring of a major leaguer to deliver in this Series. Bell's grandfather, Gus, also played in the majors, while Spiezio and Bonds also had dads in the big leagues. Snow's father played in the NFL.

Rodriguez had been 5-0 this postseason. The 20-year-old with a wicked slider and crackling fastball absorbed his first major league loss.

Tim Worrell got the win and Robb Nen closed for a save.

It was an October classic, and came on a fitting night. Banned former star Pete Rose drew the biggest ovation during a pregame celebration marking baseball's most memorable moments.

Jason Schmidt will start for the Giants in Game 5 Thursday night (Friday morning in Manila) against Jarrod Washburn. It'll be a rematch of the opener in which Schmidt outpitched the Anaheim ace.

UE vs Ateneo for crown; Eagles take PBL leave

By Dennis U. Eroa

OLAN Omiping exploded with 31 points as University of the East downed College of St. Benilde, 85-74, and barged into the finals of the Battle of Champions yesterday before a sparsely filled crowd at the Makati Coliseum.

The 6-foot-1 Omiping, who sharpened his skills by playing sandlot basketball in Tondo, kept the Blazers at bay with his repertoire of shots, giving the Red Warriors their second win in three games in the semifinals of this tournament featuring leading UAAP and NCAA teams.

Proceeds of the event will go to the Bantay Bata Foundation.

Ateneo completed the finals cast with an easy 70-56 victory over San Sebastian College in the other semis tiff. Game One of the best-of-three championship will be held tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum, with the Warriors eyeing to snap their string of losses to the Eagles which started in the UAAP Final Four.

Meanwhile, PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad said Chairman's Cup titleholder Ateneo, also the reigning UAAP champion, took a leave of absence and will not compete in the Chairman's Cup starting on Nov. 4 at the Makati Coliseum.

Trinidad said Ateneo athletic director Junjun Capistrano and team official Jimmy Alabanza explained that the players need a break and will concentrate on their studies.

PACQUIAO: Third defense. VAL HANDUMON

Pacquiao: Rakkiatgym strong but I can beat him

By June Navarro

DAVAO CITY—World champion Manny Pacquiao is treating his title defense against Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym of Thailand like any other ordinary fight.

In fact, Pacquiao admitted his handlers didn't even dare tinker with his usual routine since retaining the International Boxing Federation superbantamweight crown via a second-round knockout against Jorge Eliecer Julio last June.

And it won't be any different when Pacquiao, who boasts of a 35-2-1 win-loss-draw fight record highlighted by 26 knockouts, climbs atop the ring tomorrow for a third title defense against Rakkiatgym at the Rizal Memorial Colleges gym here.

Fight preview

"*Walang binago sa pagpapakundisyon ko. Malakas si* Rakkiatgym *pero kaya kong talunin* (My conditioning hasn't changed. Rakkiatgym is strong but I can beat him)," said the 25-year-old Pacquiao during yesterday's fight preview at the RMC gym.

Dubbed as the "Duel in Davao," the Pacquiao-Rakkiatgym title fight and the supporting bouts will be aired live nationwide beginning at 6 p. m. courtesy of NBN-4.

Fight organizers spearheaded by Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte have offered P3 million worth of tickets to the members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Moro National Liberation Front and the New People's Army to emphasize the unifying values of sports.

Duterte has graciously committed to shoulder the cost of 60 tickets for the three groups at P50,000 each.

Wearing extravagant pieces of gold jewelry around his neck, forearms and fingers, Pacquiao is expected to earn $160,000 (roughly P8 million).

Rakkiatgym, who will earn $20,000 (P1 million) from the fight, came a little bit late and missed the presence of the flamboyant Pacquiao during the pre-fight, which was barricaded by a horde of security men from the local police force and the military.

"From what I've seen in the tapes, he (Pacquiao) has a weakness," said Rakkiatgym, through an interpreter. "But I won't tell."

Rakkiatgym owns a ring record of 36 wins and two losses spiked with 25 floorings.

Positive mood

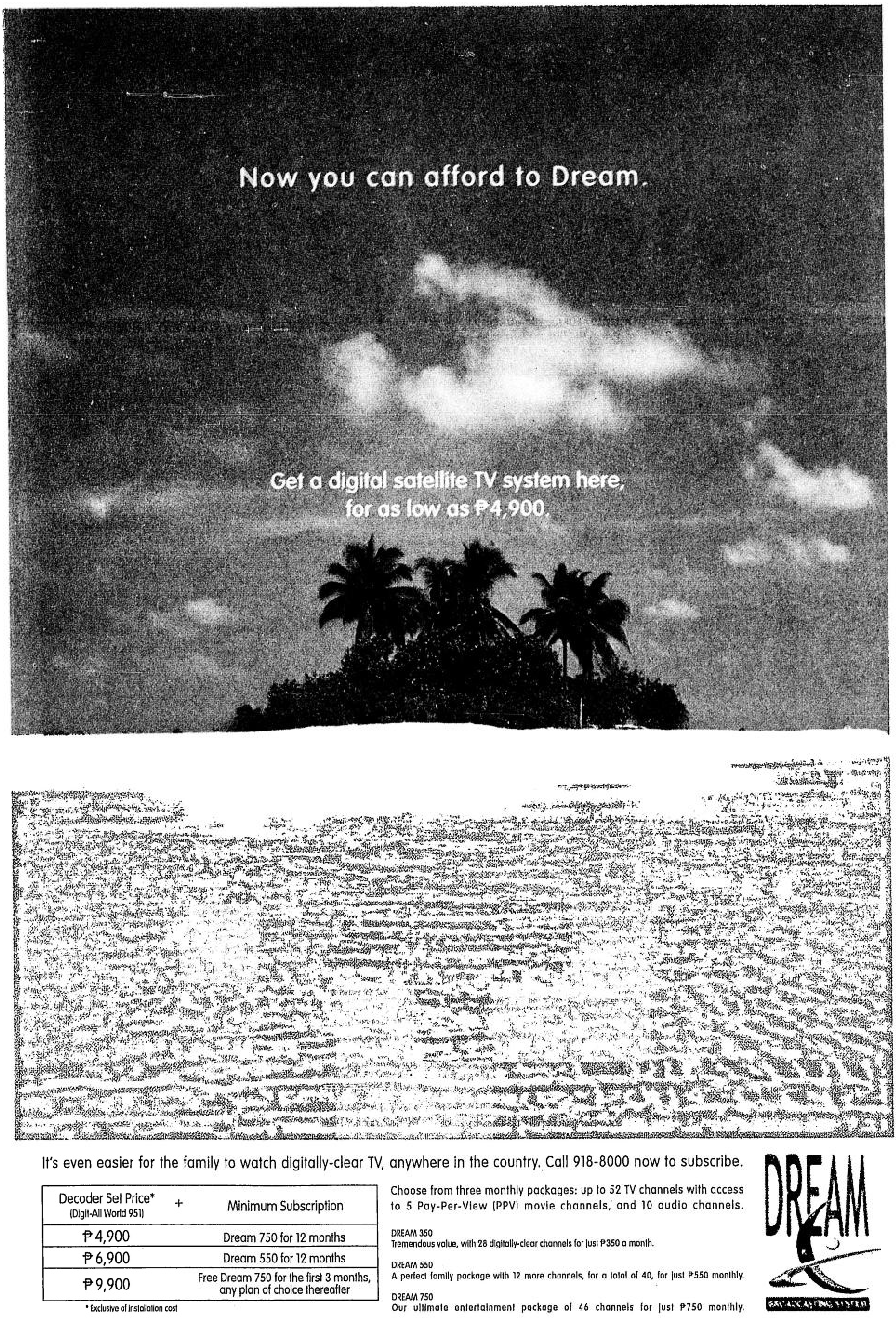
But while Pacquiao presented a positive mood against Rakkiatgym, Rod Nazario, his business manager, expressed guarded optimism for his hard-punching ward.

Nazario said he saw the tapes of Rakkiatgym but wasn't sure if the videos were for real.

"We can really never tell. It is but natural for the handlers of our opponents to present a tape that doesn't show the true capability of their boxer," said the 67-year-old Nazario, who has been handling the fights of Pacquiao for seven years now.

Pacquiao, a southpaw from General Santos City, has sparred for 115 rounds, almost half of which were against a mixture of Mexicans, Americans and Fil-Americans when he trained for two months under well-known American trainer Freddie Roach.

Pacquiao captured the 122-lb IBF crown at the expense of South African Lehlo Ledwaba in June last year and had successfully defended it against Mexican Agapito Sanchez and Julio.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Pucay fires 68, grabs Sherwood Hills lead

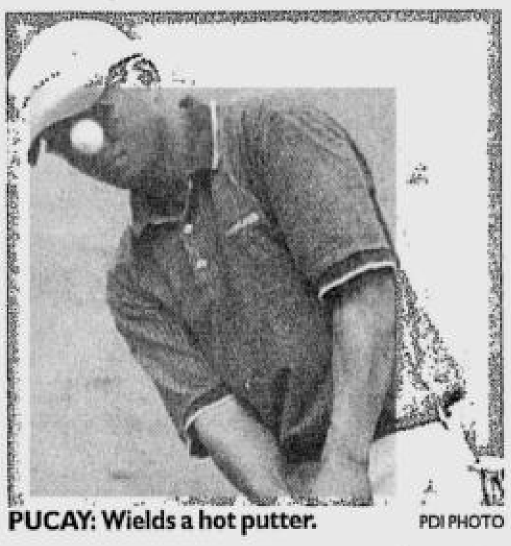
By Jong Arcano

NO pain, no gain. That's how Mars Pucay describes his love-hate relationship with his putter.

Pucay found the putter to be a friendly stick again, shooting a four-under-par 68 yesterday to become the eighth player to gain possession of the upper hand in three rounds of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit second leg in Trece Martirez, Cavite.

After six shared the first round lead and Mario Siodina broke the course mark in the second round, it was Pucay's turn to sizzle under the blazing sun.

As Siodina faded in the back nine, Pucay saw the opening and exploded with three birdies in a row from the 13th and held sway down the stretch to seize the initiative at 209, seven under par for 54 holes at the hazard-laden Sherwood Hills Golf Club.



PUCAY: Wields a hot putter. PDI PHOTO

The 53-year-old Siodina, preparing for another crack at the US Senior Tour qualifying, still remained within an earshot of Pucay despite his 73.

Siodina is tied with Richard Sinfuego, who shared low medal honors for the day with a 68.

For a while, Cassius Casas appeared set to occupy his old familiar role at the top.

Casas came out scorching with an early run of three consecutive birdies from the second. A double-bogey on the 10th and another bogey on the next hole abruptly ended his charge, settling for a 72 that left him alone at 213.

The leaderboard is packed with stars as Robert Pactolerin (69) and Rodrigo Cuello (70) shared sixth position at 214 and Danny Zarate (72) still a big threat 216 in this second stop of a nationwide tour jointly organized by the First Gentleman Foundation and the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

Pactolerin could have made the gap a little closer, wasting a five-under card after 17 holes with a double-bogey on the last hole.

The putting touch has been very fragile for Pucay and it turned worst two weeks ago in the World Cup qualifier in Malaysia where he missed a four-footer for par in a three-nation playoff that denied him and partner Zarate a slot to the finals in Mexico.

The third round scores:

209 * M. Pucay 73-68-68
211 * R. Sinfuego 73-69-68, M. Siodina 73-65-73
213 * C. Casas 72-69-72
214 * R. Pactolerin 74-71-69, Rr. Cuello 71-73-70
215 * D. Zarate 71-72-72
216 * M. Manubay 75-68-73
217 * E. Salvador 71-72-74, R. Pagunsan 74-68-75
218 * A.Lascuna 74-74-70, M. Dizon 75-71-72, J.Pagunsan 71-75-72, Rl. Cuello 71-74-73

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASEBALL: MLB World Series Game #5, 8 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.), ESPN

GOLF: PGA Disney Golf Classic, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r), Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour, 12 noon, 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

CJ, Jojo make World Cup bowling finals

RIGA, Latvia—Filipino bowlers CJ (Christian Jan) Suarez and Josephine "Jojo" Canare, displaying nerves of steel in the last five games, made the cut on Wednesday in the 38th AMF World Cup international finals at the Toss Boulinga Halle here.

Suarez rolled 1115 to complete 20 games in fifth place at 4594 and a 229.70 average while Canare, making her first international World Cup appearance, carded 1006 for a 20-game series of 4107 (205.35) to rank 10th.

Only the top 24 bowlers out of a field of 83 men and 72 women remained in the chase for the prestigious individual crown.

The remaining contenders were playing 12 more qualifying games yesterday to determine the top eight who will advance to the quarterfinals.

England's Wayne Greenall and Shannon Pluhowsky of the United States set the pace after 20 games with 4740 and 4700 pins, respectively.

The English bowler, who rolled a perfect game earlier in the he tourney, led Germany's Kai Guenther by 11 pins.

Paul Trotter of Australia, who has also rolled a perfect 300, remained in third spot with 4665.

France's Pascale Moynot came in second in the women's division with 4391, while Mexico's Teresa Piccini placed third with 4304.

In the quarterfinals tomorrow, the format changes from total pinfall to best-of-three games head-to-head matches, and all pinfalls accumulated in earlier rounds are dropped. The match loser is eliminated.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1987, Virgilio "Babes" Guilatco fired a net 65 to top the first leg of the Carlsberg Cup golf series at the Alabang Country Club course. Also today in 1993, Manuelito Villarosa clocked 34 mintues, 4 seconds while Isabel Lagunero timed 42:29.35 to win their respective divisions in the Davao Milo 10K marathon at the Rizal Park.

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SPORTSWATCH

Purefoods seeks 2nd

PUREFOODS guns for its second straight victory today when it tackles FedEx even as Sta. Lucia Realty and Talk N Text debut in the Selecta PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome. Fresh from their 71-63 win over Barangay Ginebra in the opener, the Hotdogs will take on the Express at 5:30 p.m. The Realtors and the Phone Pals collide at 7:30 p.m. *MAR*

Naga Milo Marathon

SOME 8,000 runners in the Bicol region are expected to don their running shoes on Oct. 27 to join the next leg of the 26th National Milo Marathon in Naga City, with Mayor Jesse Robredo firing the starting gun at 6 a.m. "As part of our commitment to promote the sport of running in the country, we are once again bringing the National Milo Marathon to Naga City, which has a strategic location to encourage the participation of runners in the region," said Jackby Jaime, Milo Sports Executive. Jaime added that the Bicol region has produced three National Milo Marathon champions in the men's division–Victor Adava, Wilfredo Ballester and Allan Ballester.

Jordan sues lover

JORDAN

CHICAGO — Michael Jordan filed a lawsuit against a woman he contends is trying to extort $5 million from him to keep quiet about their relationship more than 10 years ago. Jordan acknowledged in the lawsuit filed Wednesday in Cook County Circuit Court that he paid the woman $250,000 "under threat of publicly exposing that relationship." Jordan, who plays for the Washington Wizards but spent most of his career with the Chicago Bulls, never agreed to pay any amount above the original $250,000, the lawsuit says. The woman attempted to extort the additional money from Jordan through her attorneys, according to the lawsuit. Her lawyers were not named in the paperwork. *AP*

Tatap clarification

VICTOR U. Valbuena, president of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap), yesterday said that non-members of Tatap like individuals, club members, schools, colleges, universities, government and private offices are required to register for membership at the Tatap offices. Membership forms are available at Tatap, Room 203 PSC Administration Building, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila. Call 522-1885 for details.

Pasay derby today

A JAMPACKED crowd is anticipated tonight when Pasay City Cockpit presents another special 3-cock derby with 50 fights on tap. Exlusive sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free. PCC managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano said the guaranteed prize is P150,000 plus a brand-new scooter to the champion. The entry fee is P2,200. Actual submission of entries will be done today at Pasay Cockpit, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. to make sure that all entries are legitimate. Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1746 and 843-1890. There will be no derby on Nov. 1 in observance of All Souls' Day. The next derby is on Nov. 8, a 3-cocker to be hosted by Mon Torres.

RACING TIPS

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Race 4--1. Tawagin Mo Na 2. Rain Check 3. Raise D Sun
Race 5--1. D Barrister 2. Steel Wheel 3. Tanging Ikaw
Race 6--1. Lucky Strike 2. Howard Huge 3. Stock Rising 4. Spoiler 5. Better Harry
Race 7--1. Ready Aim Fire 2. Wind Star 3. Lady Queen 4. Live Show 5. Grand Prize
Race 8--1. Adam's Call 2. Spectacular Queen 3. Dixie Dancer 4. Lorna 5. Prickly Heat
Race 9--1. Friendly Venture 2. High Typhoon 3. Crystal Horizon 4. Juan Marco 5. Charmingly Chit 6. Time Essential

Southwoods-Manila Golf for crown

WITH its never-say-die spirit coming to fore again, Manila Southwoods rallied from the brink of defeat to frustrate Mimosa, 5-3, recently and earn a return trip to the finals of the 2002 Federation Golf League.

Given up for dead after Mimosa took a 3-1 lead after taking its hosting turn in Pampanga, the Southwoods players were only hoping to at least forge a playoff when the duel transferred to their Cavite course the next day.

Southwoods did a lot better as they swept all their four matches to pull off the big turnaround and set up a championship match against giant-killer Manila Golf Club this weekend.

Southwoods, by virtue of having the better eliminations record, chose to host first tomorrow, with Manila Golf taking its turn the next day. Manila Golf grabbed the finals berth after disposing of defending champion Forest Hills in a highly emotional match that was decided by a missed two-foot putt for par by Larry Patnongon in a sudden-death playoff.

"It's been a season of comebacks for us. Our team members seem to like going via the backdoor so much," said Southwoods captain Jeric Hechanova, who subbed for Jerome Delariarte and led Romy Vergara in winning the scramble, 3-1. *Jong Arcano*

Subic to host Asian duathlon event

SCENIC Subic in Zambales awaits a full weekend of running and biking as the 2nd Asian Duathlon Championship gets under way on Nov. 16-17.

Co-organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, the annual continental event is expecting the participation of 7 ASTC member countries led by Japan, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Macau.

The event, sponsored by Speedo, Philippine Sports Commission, Nextel, Crossover 105.1 FM, Reliv Philippines and the Philippine Olympic Committee for All Commission, is expected to attract around 200 participants who will all endure a challenging Standard Distance 10Km run-40Km bike-5 Km run course in the Freeport zone.

Becker guilty

MUNICH, Germany–Former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker was found guilty of tax evasion on Thursday but was spared jail by a German court which handed him a two-year suspended sentence and a hefty fine. Becker, 34, whose heroics on the tennis court made him one of Germany's biggest post-war celebrities, had sought leniency by admitting in court on Wednesday he made a mistake by dodging tax and by paying $3 million that he owed last week. On top of the suspended sentence, the Munich state court fined the three-times Wimbledon champion 300,000 euros ($293,000), and ordered him to pay 200,000 euros more to charity plus the case costs, estimated at more than 100,000 euros. *Reuters*

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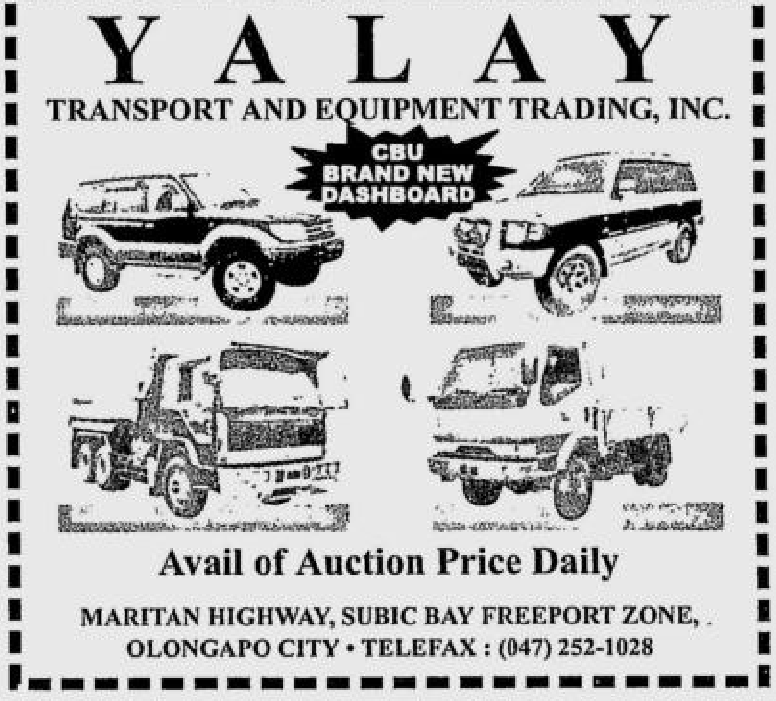

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■ Plunder charges hound Joey Marquez /A26

METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

■ City Hall decries lazy depot compliance /A26

CPD THEORY

Muslim funds behind OMA killings

By Alcuin Papa

MONEY appears to be the root of the murder of two officials of the Office of Muslim Affairs, according to a ranking official of the Central Police District.

The police official who is involved in the investigation of the murders of Kharis Mikunung and Nasser Baharran yesterday revealed that the two men were killed as a result of a struggle for control of the OMA funds.

"What is involved is millions of pesos—mostly donations from the Middle East—for livelihood projects and pilgrimages to Mecca for Muslims in the country," said the official, who requested anonymity.

Mikunung, the OMA's executive assistant director, was murdered in front of the OMA office on E. Rodriguez Avenue on Sept. 19, while Baharran was killed in an ambush on Araneta Avenue on Oct. 21.

Members of a police mobile unit managed to arrest one of the suspects in the killing of Baharran right after the ambush.

Investigators said Adiong Udas, 29, of Baligayong, Davao City, had owned up to the killing.

CPD director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro yesterday said he has reason to believe that the two murders were perpetrated by the same group of persons.

Castro said witnesses in Mikunung's murder told investigators that Udas "looked like" the man who shot Mikunung at close range.

He said he hoped they can "hit two birds with one stone."

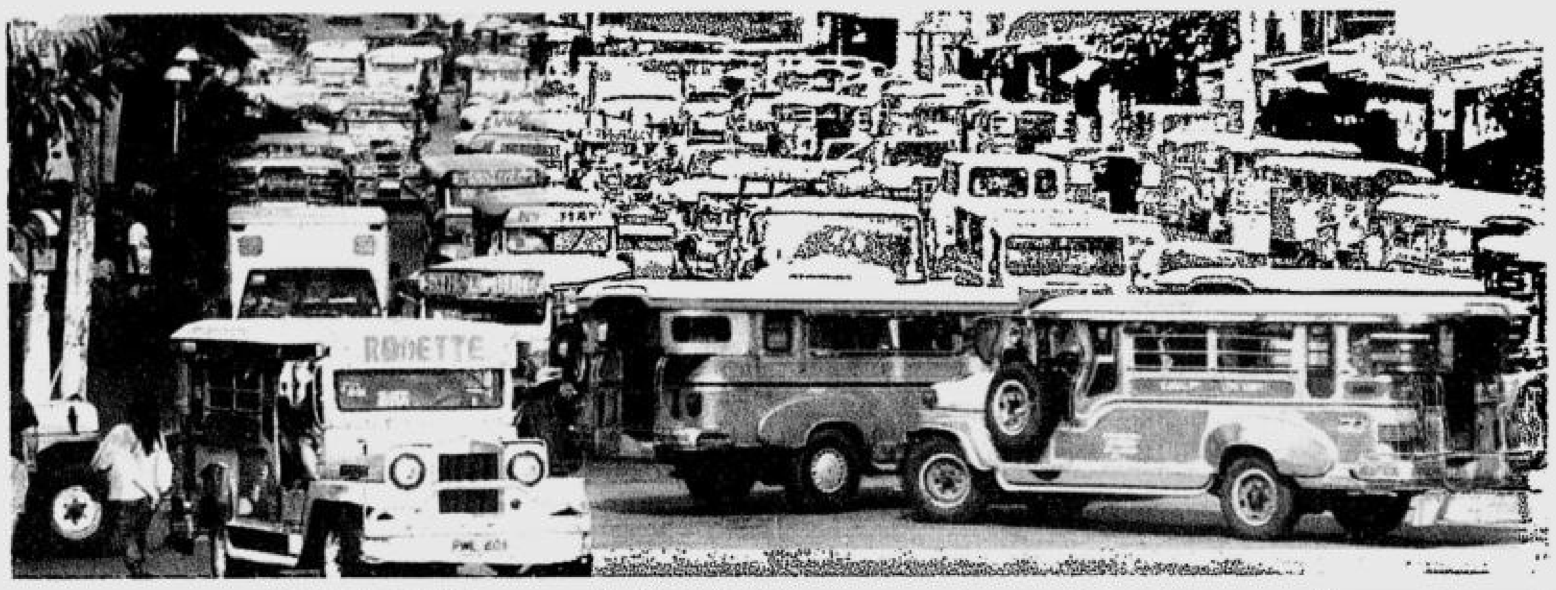
Castro said Udas has refused to answer questions on the murder, specifically the mastermind behind Baharran's ambush.

The CPD chief said Udas only revealed that he was hired to kill Baharran.

"We will have to see if (Udas can talk) about that later," Castro said.

Earlier, police had said Udas agreed to kill Baharran in exchange for a .45-caliber pistol.

Castro also said they are still looking at the angle that Baharran's ambush might have been a case of "mistaken identity," as Baharran was using the car of his uncle at the time of the ambush.



MMDA MESS
This jungle of jeepneys is supposed to be a six-lane road, right down the Lambingan Bridge in Sta. Ana, Manila, leading to Kalentong in Mandaluyong. Main culprits, of course, are drivers who use the area as a terminal, and mindless traffic management officers. If the MMDA can go after vendors, why can't it do something about this more sickening daily occurence?

BOY CABRIDO

ISAFP man held in QC

A MAN said to be a member of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines was arrested for trying to rob a businessman early yesterday morning in Quezon City, police said.

According to a police report, Roy Sambilon, 27, was identified as a member of ISAFP and based in Camp Aguinaldo.

Sambilon is accused of trying to rob Bernard Saw at around 2 a.m. at the corner of Catolos and New York Streets in Cubao.

Central Police District station 2 policemen who had already been alerted about the heist managed to arrest Sambilon. Police said the suspect's cohorts were able to flee.

Police seized from Sambilon M-14 and M-16 rifles, a .45-caliber pistol, a .38-caliber revolver, a bulletproof vest, two license plates, a kitchen knife and assorted ammunition.

Alcuin Papa

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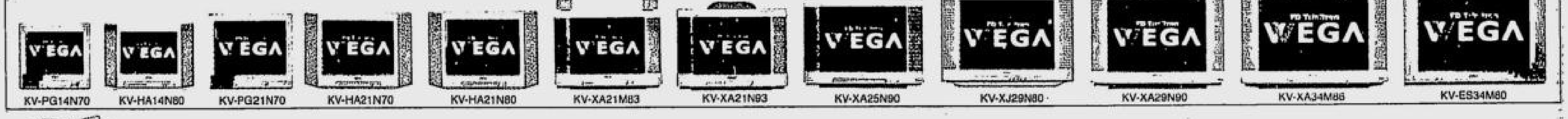

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City Hall decries lazy depot compliance

By Jerome Aning

OIL firms using the Pandacan fuel terminal are "very slow" in complying with the terms of the memorandum of understanding they signed with the Manila city government four months ago.

Mayor Lito Atienza disclosed this yesterday after conferring with members of the task force he created to monitor the implementation of the MOU terms.

"The task force reported to me that there is very slow work toward the implementation of the terms," he told reporters.

Speedy compliance, Atienza added, is important if the security goals of the MOU is to realized.

The mayor said that the month-old body, headed by city administrator Ernesto Dionisio, is having a hard time gaining access to the decision-making sections of the oil firms.

The only positive development so far, Atienza added, is the decommissioning of fuel tanks nearest the community.

But the mayor said agreed "green" buffer zone between the depot and the community has yet to be established.

Discussions for a common oil depot have yet to be finalized, he added.

Under the MOU signed with City Hall last June 26, Petron, Caltex and Shell agreed to reduce their operations by as much as 40 percent.

City Hall originally planned to shut down the depot but changed its mind when the oil firms warned of a possible fuel supply shortage and price hikes.

The MOU tasks the three oil firms to dismantle 28 storage tanks containing the more hazardous petroleum products such as aviation gas and liquefied petroleum gas.

City Hall extended the three firms' permits to operate until the end of the year, during which they have to comply with the MOU's provisions.

Atienza earlier told reporters that if the three oil firms fail to meet their obligations, he would not hesitate to revoke the MOU and enforce an ordinance providing the closure of the depot.

Slay uncovers Pandora's box of drugs

By Nelson F. Flores

THE KILLING last Sunday of Wilfredo Loilo, said to be Marikina's most wanted criminal, led to the recovery of a list of names of suspected members and clients of a notorious drug syndicate in the city.

Police sources said pieces of paper with the names and addresses of suspected drug couriers and clients were recovered from Loilo immediately after he was killed in San Mateo, Rizal by Marikina policemen.

The information was verified by Carlos de la Cruz, the 8th most wanted man of the Marikina police and Loilo's friend and constant companion, the sources said.

Police said Loilo was killed after he tried to elude arrest in Barangay Gulod Malaya, San Mateo. Police later found in Loilo's house two motorcycles, two hand grenades, a rifle grenade, nine Armalite rifle magazines, a .9mm pistol magazine, and drug paraphernalia.

Cell phone van stolen

ROBBERS held up businessmen Renyl Palomato, Ivan Gonzales, and Charles Alcores, in Quezon City Wednesday night, police said.

Palomato, 28, Gonzales, 24, and Alcores, 30, all residents of New Manila, Quezon City, told police that four men on two scooters blocked their Mitsubishi L-300 van on Gilmore Street, Barangay Valencia, Quezon City at around 11:20 p.m.

The suspects then pulled out their guns, announced a holdup, and took over the victim's van loaded with cellular phones and accessories. *Alcuin Papa*

Please help this child

BABY Boy Rutagines was born on Oct. 5 at the Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center but has not left the hospital since.

Doctors discovered that the baby, born to Elisa Rutagines, has a displaced heart and congenital heart disease. The abnormalities in his heart have stunted the baby's growth as doctors noted the child has not grown even after 72 hours in incubation. The child has also developed jaundice.

Elisa is appealing to kind-hearted readers to help her to defray hospital expenses for the treatment of her child. Donors may contact Teddy Rutagines at (0916) 574-4710.

Plunder raps hound Marquez

By Volt Contreras

PARAÑAQUE City officials led by Mayor Joey Marquez may face plunder charges as graft investigators have started looking into the construction of an allegedly "overpriced" public market worth P130 million.

The Office of the Special Prosecutor, upon request by certain residents, has launched a fact-finding investigation on the questioned infrastructure project in Barangay La Huerta.

The OSP, which is under the Ombudsman's office, has acted on the request contained in two letters it received last Aug. 22 and 25—one signed by two residents of Airport Village, the other coming from "Concerned Residents."

The complainants alleged that the original cost of the public market was only P99.8 million but City Hall ended up spending up to P130 million.

Along with Marquez, also being implicated were city administrator Antonio Abad, city engineer Reydivino Deval Santos, city treasurer Liberato Carabeo, internal auditor Eduardo Hayab, all of the Parañague City government; and PLERM Construction & Devt. Corp.

Man dies in grenade blast

By Nelson Forte Flores

AN UNIDENTIFIED man yesterday was killed in an apparent grenade explosion when he tried to rob an abandoned house Antipolo city, police said.

The house in Tambakan Sitio Agray, Barangay Mayamot in Antipolo, whose owner was still unidentified, appeared to have been booby-trapped with a grenade, police said.

Antipolo police chief Supt. Jose Dayco said the explosion happened at 3:40 p.m. yesterday and sent residents into panic.

But Dayco was quick to downplay the explosion, saying that it was not related to terrorist bomb attacks that recently hit Manila and southern Philippines.

He said police are still investigating why the homeowner had stashed grenades in his house. *Nelson Forte Flores*

METROBRIEFS

2 children held hostage

RETARIO PAIWAGAN, 26, of 114 4th Avenue, Grace Park, Quezon City, yesterday took Herminio Roxas, 10, and his sister Christine, 5, hostages and said he was "running away from some men who were after him." Police said Paiwagan was armed with a knife when he entered the Roxas house at 18 Reyes Compound, Napocor Village, Barangay Pasong Tamo about 9 a.m. yesterday and took the children. But after an hour of negotiations, police managed to convince Paiwagan to give himself up and release the children. Two knives were found on Paiwagan, whom police said was probably deranged. He was immediately taken into police custody.

2 hurt in shooting

ROBERT Egia, 22, and Rodel Balatbat, 21, were seriously wounded in a drive-by shooting in Sta. Cruz, Manila Thursday night. The victims are now confined at the Chinese General Hospital, police said. Investigators said the victims recognized the gunmen as members of a rival street gang.

Police said the victims were walking on Triago Street at 11:30 p.m. when the suspects, drove by in a red Honda Civic (TSJ-269) and fired at the victims. The car, which was believed to have been stolen, was later found on a dark alley in Sampaloc. Investigators said they found several empty .45 and 9-mm. shells inside the car.

Vendor stabbed dead

VENDOR Rico Bulan, 22, on Thursday was stabbed to death over stall space in Divisoria Market in Tondo, Manila, police said. Bulan's fellow vendors saw the victim staggering along the railroad tracks on C.M. Recto corner Fulgueras Street and clutching his bleeding chest about 10 p.m. on Thursday. He collapsed in front of the stall of Federico Capella, 34. Bulan, a resident of Don Bosco Street, Tondo, and a Masbate native, was clutching at his bleeding chest. He collapsed in front of the stall of witness Federico Capella, 34, and was declared dead on arrival at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center. Police have not identified Bulan's killer. *Jerome Aning*

Manny Pacquiao must help us forget

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

HERE'S a warning to boxing fans. If you wake up Sunday mumbling the tough, unprounceable name of a visiting Thai fighter, we would've lost the country's lone world boxing crown.

Our very own Manny Pacquiao, the International Boxing Federation superbantamweight champion, squares off with a top-ranked challenger from Bangkok in Davao City tomorrow.

Mark my word. If, after that duel, we still remember and try to speak correctly the name of Fabrakorb Rikkiatgym, Pacquiao would've lost his 122-pound world crown.

One great thing going for Pacquiao is that he deeply knows what's at stake. Not just the world title. Not just millions of pesos. Not just his future.

On top of these old tangibles, there's the respect, faith and adulation of his countrymen which Pacquiao cannot afford to squander.

***

Let's not repeat the name of Pacquiao's opponent. It's a sour tongue-twister after all.

But can Pacquiao, for example, forget a Thai fighter by the name of Medgoen 3-K Battery?

OK, that brand may now sound like a street corner repair shop.

But back in December 1998, that name spelled a whole world of difference for Pacquiao. Manny lost his World Boxing Council flyweight crown to the pudgy but peppery Thai.

Actually, Pacquiao had surrendered the world crown on the eve of that title bout proper after he failed to make the weight. He had drained and punished himself silly, but Pacquiao, no thanks to careless, wanton ways, not to mention mismanagement, failed to make the 112-pound limit.

***

At least, this time out, everything seems to be going for our lone world title-holder. He's not only fighting before neighbors and avid home supporters. He appears to have also settled well in his weight division.

If he indeed appears to be uncomfortable, it's not due to any excess weight. He can be expected to breeze past the scales today.

The problem, if it could be rated a problem at all, is Pacquiao's total lack of knowledge about his opponent's fighting style.

His handlers had tried their best to secure a tape of the Thai's previous fights. They did not succeed.

In fact, television producers had a tough time piecing together bits for their show primer. They also encountered the woes suffered by Pacquiao and his handlers. No tape, no clear view of the Thai visitor who, by the way, comes in as a mandatory challenger.

***

For the record, Pacquiao has not had some easy times against Thai opponents.

Other than lost his world fly crown to Medgoen, Pacquiao also had a rough sailing against another Thai in Kidapawan some two years ago.

Only a desperate finish and an even stronger left hand saved the day for Pacquiao, who was visibly losing on points and fading rapidly, until he luckily nailed down that Thai talented foe whose name we have conveniently forgotten.

From that win in Kidapawan, Pacquiao flew to California where he hit the jackpot after having linked with trainer Fred Roach around Hollywood.

***

After Roach chiseled Pacquiao into a gem, the power-punching ring wonder from Gensan next stopped defending champion Lehlo Ledwabah of Africa in a big card in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao next disposed of Jorge Eliecer Julio last June.

Anyway, in those title fights, Pacquiao had indeed appeared sensational.

He indeed appeared ready for the dream bouts against the biggest names in and around his division, like Pauli Ayala and Johnny Tapia.

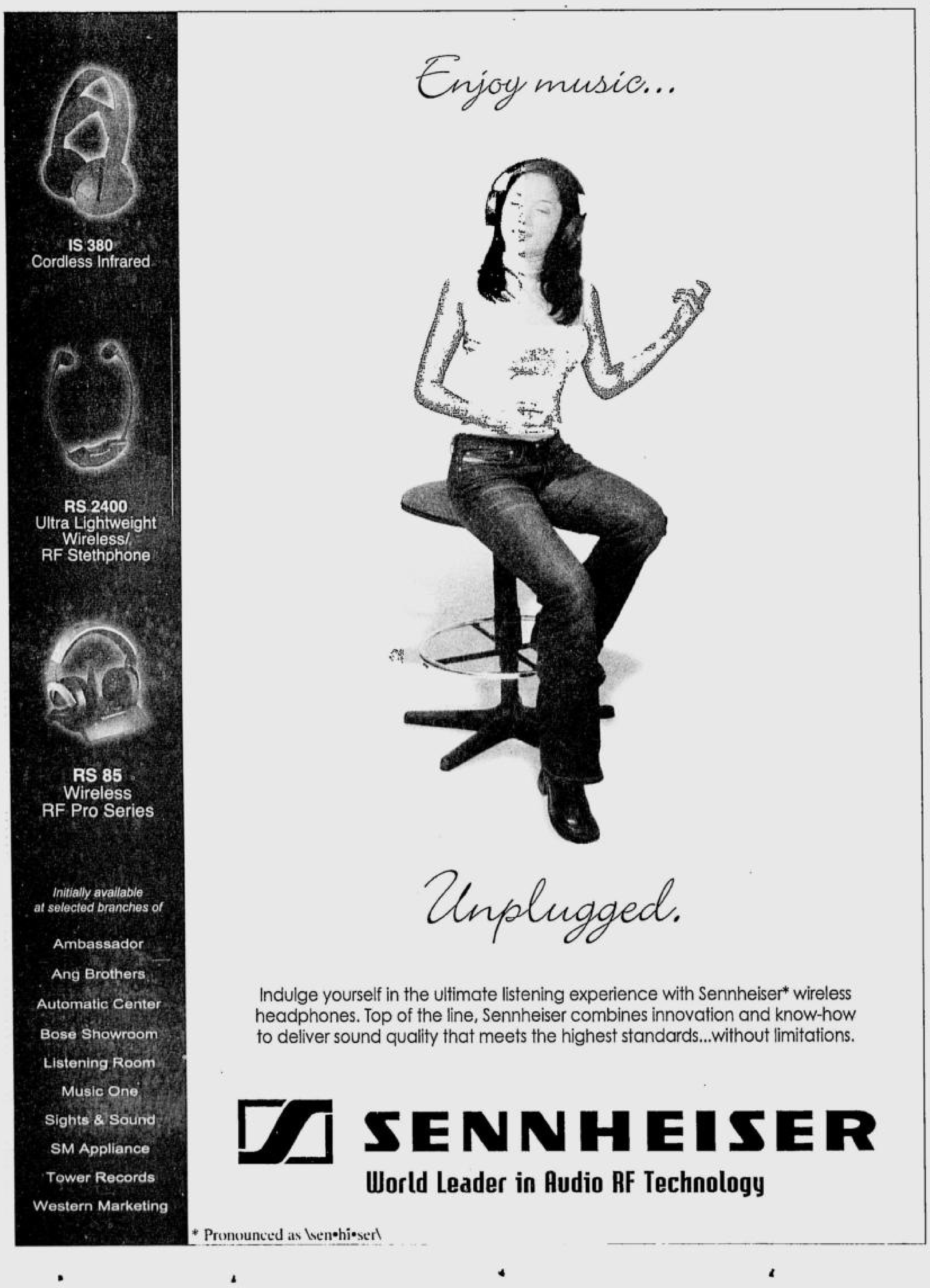
In Davao tomorrow, we will pray that we don't end up rephrasing the terrible syllables in the name of Pacquiao heavily calibered opponent.

Of course, it would also be fun if the visiting would-be invader turns out to be as tough to master and pronounce inside the ring.

You see, boxing is a also a debate.

If Pacquiao sustains and displays the vast improvements he bared in that exhibition match against former world champion Jesus Salud in Hawaii, then we would all have no problem the morning after.

We would have all conveniently forgotten a name we could not spell come Sunday morning.



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Ex-Lunatic Nelly is global hip hop star

NELLY, the newest hip hop and R&B star, has conquered the world's music charts with his "Nellyville" CD. Two cuts, "Dilemma" and "Hot in Here," have been on US charts for more than 10 weeks already.

Born Cornell Haynes Jr., he was originally with the St. Louis-based rap group called The Lunatics whose debut album produced three hits.

Nelly became a star when he released his debut CD, "Country Grammar," which won four Grammy nominations, an MTV award, American Music and Soul Train awards.

People Magazine named him one of its "Breakthrough" talents in 2001.

He also has a role in the new movie "Snipes."

Robbie Williams single released

BRITISH pop star Robbie Williams recently signed a groundbreaking multimillion-dollar contract with EMI Music, rumored to be the biggest ever clinched by a UK act.

Under the deal, which is for a minimum of six albums, EMI will work closely with Williams in his non-recording activities including touring, publishing and merchandising.

Tony Wadsworth, chair and CEC) of EMI Record Music UK and Ireland, said the label would be releasing the much-talked about new album "Escapology."

"It feels good," Williams says. "I'm very delighted to be with EMI. We look forward to making and breaking new records together."

Williams first found fame with the boy band Take That. As a solo artist, he has sold nearly 20 million albums worldwide. He has won 13 Brit Awards, including nine as a solo artist.

"Swing When You're Winning," his last album, took him to the top of the UK charts for Christmas 2001. He also beat Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson and John Lennon in a recent poll of VH1 viewers of the top 100 men in music of all time.

"Escapology," his fifth album was written largely by Williams and his songwriter partner Guy Chambers. It will be out in the market on Nov. 18.

The first single will be "Feel," whose video was recently shot in Calgary, Alberta and features actress Darryl Hannah. It will have a simultaneous airing tonight at 10 p.m. on DWTM, DWLS-FM, 99.5 RT, K-Lite and RX 93.1.

"(Escapology) really is the best thing I've ever done," says Williams. "I'm looking forward to getting out there and performing it. This is the first album I'm really proud of."

"Escapology" will be available in in CD and cassette formats.

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Tesis 9:30pm

October 21 (Mon)
El Abuello 11:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 2:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 4:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 7:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 9:30pm

October 22 (Tue)
Goya En Burdeos 11:30pm
Solas 2:00pm
Tesis 4:30pm
El Abuello 7:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 9:30pm

October 23 (Wed)
Retrato de Mujer 11:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
El Abuello 2:00pm
Bwana 4:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 24 (Thu.)
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Goya En Burdeos 2:00pm
El Abuello 4:30pm
Bwana 7:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 9:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo

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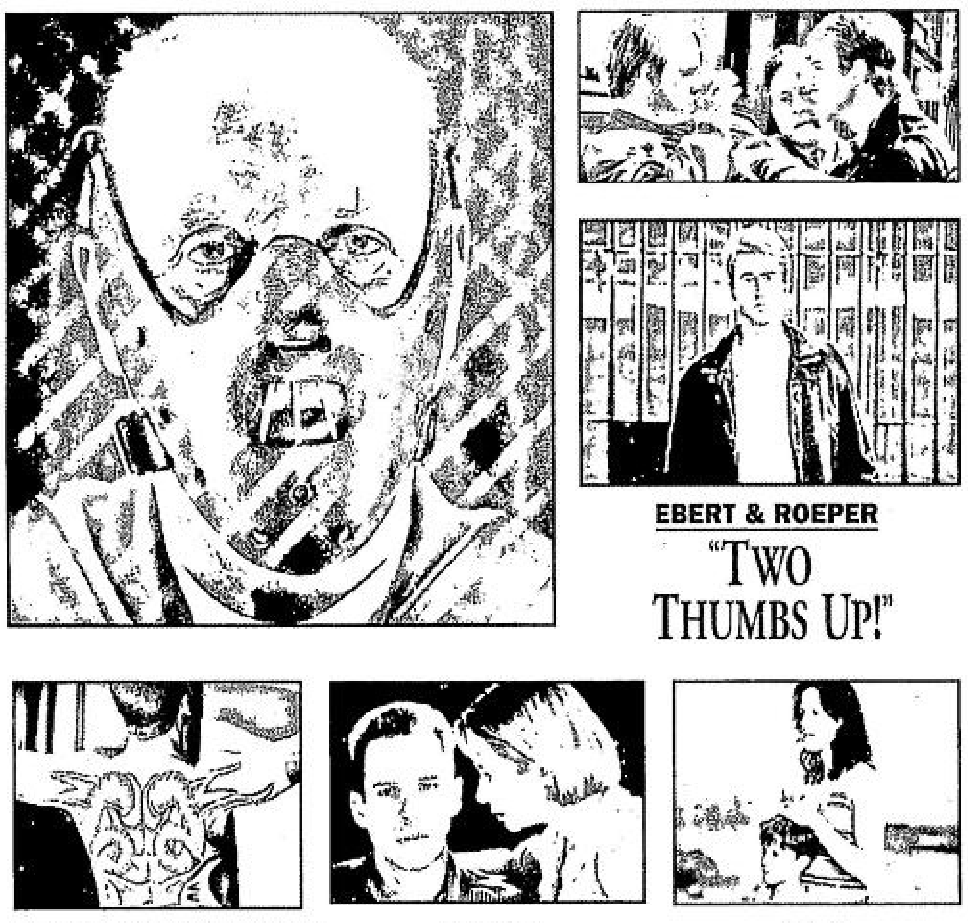

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Tom Hanks rules Power 101; Tom Cruise is No. 4, but Nicole Kidman makes it, too

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

LOS ANGELES—The much-awaited Power 101 issue of Entertainment Weekly magazine offers something different this year.

The 13th installment of the annual list is divided for the first time into two sections—the top 50.5 entertainers and other celebrities, and the top 50.5 studio executives. So don't expect to see the likes of Walt Disney boss **Michael Eisner** lording it over such superstars as **Mel Gibson** or **Tom Hanks.**

The celebs are depicted as superheroes. Hanks, as Captain America, lands the top spot this year. The two-time Oscar best actor has always been in the upper half of the Power 101 list, thanks to his consecutive box-office triumphs, the latest of which is "Road to Perdition," his seventh film, which surpassed the $100-million mark.

Hanks works with **Steven Spielberg** in the upcoming "Catch Me if You Can" and with the Coen brothers in "The Lady Killers." He produced with HBO the Emmy Award-winning series "Band of Brothers." And on the big screen, he bankrolled the box office winner, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

Julia Roberts, as Wonder Woman, gets the No. 5 spot, despite the dismal results of "Full Frontal," her latest outing with director **Steven Soderbergh**, who gave her an Oscar best actress for "Erin Brokovich." And even after she got hitched with cameraman **Danny Moder**, she remains one of the most a sought-after female stars in Hollywood.

Roberts is the producer of the romance drama "Maid in Manhattan," starring **Jennifer Lopez.**

Reese Witherspoon, as Supergirl, proves that not only veterans make it to the power list. Only 26, she ranks No. 22 after her latest chick flick, "Sweet Home Alabama," earned a whopping opening weekend gross of $35.6 million. MGM promptly signed her up to a "Legally Blonde" sequel, "Red, White and Blonde."

Jennifer Lopez, as Cat Woman, continues to dominate the music charts with her platinum remix album which debuted at No. 1 a few months back. She's No. 19. But her latest movie, "Enough," was a dud at the tills. She stars with her rumored beau **Ben Affleck** in two movies, "Gigli" and "Jersey Girl."

Adam Sandler, as The Riddler, enjoys success both as an actor and producer, placing him in No. 10. Entertainment Weekly reported that his most recent starrer, "Mr. Deeds," grossed $125 million despite disgusted reviews. Next he stars with the venerable **Jack Nicholson** in "Anger Management." His latest effort as executive producer is "The Master of Disguise," with **Dana Carvey** in the lead.

Ozzy Osborne, who's on the cover of the Power 101 issue, is pictured with Sharon Osborne as Batman and Robin. They are both at No. 37.

Russell Crowe shows his might not as the Gladiator this time but as Thor, the thunder god known for his pride and strength. He's lucky at No. 13. The Oscar-winning actor will be seen next in Peter Weir's period drama, "Master and Commander."

Rapper **Nelly**, as The Green Lantern, reigns supreme in rap with "Nellyville" and "Dilemma," which brought him to the No. 39 spot. He will soon make his movie debut in the indie flick, "Snipes."

Director-producer Steven Spielberg ranks No. 2. Aside from making millions with Dreamworks, his production outfit with studio moguls **Jeffrey Katzenberg** and **David Geffen**, Spielberg managed to moonlight as executive producer of such films as "Men in Black 2" and "Minority Report." He directed the forthcoming Christmas Day release, "Catch Me If You Can," which boasts the first-time-together power tandem of Hanks and **Leonardo DiCaprio.**

Mel Gibson in third place shows what a power actor really is with $100-million-plus grossing films like "We Were Soldiers" and "Signs." Now commanding a fee of $25 million per picture, he even gets a share of the films' gross, like in **M. Night Shayamalan's** "Signs," which has made more than $200 million to date.

Tom Cruise, at 40, is No. 4. He is a consistent box office winner, too, and his 2003 release, "The Last Samurai," is much awaited.

Oscar best actor winner **Denzel Washington**, for "Training Day," moves up to No. 6 and is now in Hollywood's elite $20-million-per-film league. He makes his directorial debut in "Antwone Fisher," a biopic about a troubled navy petty officer in which he also plays the lead. The movie earned raves when it was shown at the Toronto Film Festival. And the buzz is loud that it might earn him an Oscar nomination.

Nicole Kidman proves she doesn't need Tom Cruise, her erstwhile hubby, to be on the Power List. She's No. 16. Last year, she propelled "Moulin Rouge" and "The Others" to box office supremacy. And she has three upcoming starrers—"The Hours," "Dogville" and "The Human Stain."

Will Smith, who claims the Fourth of July as his "own" box office play date, soared to No. 20 with the success of "Men in Black 2." But his success as a music artist is inconsistent with his acting career. His "Born to Reign" rap CD has yet to reach the platinum mark.

TV host **Oprah Winfrey**, now No. 8, is a familiar face on the Power List. So is **Jay Leno**, No. 31, despite formidable competition from **David Letterman.**

Actor **George Clooney** shares the No. 12 spot with director Soderberg, thanks to their collaboration in last year's remake of "Ocean's Eleven." They worked together again as executive producers of **Christopher Nolan's** "Insomnia," which starred Oscar winners **Al Pacino**, **Robin Williams** and **Hilary Swank.**

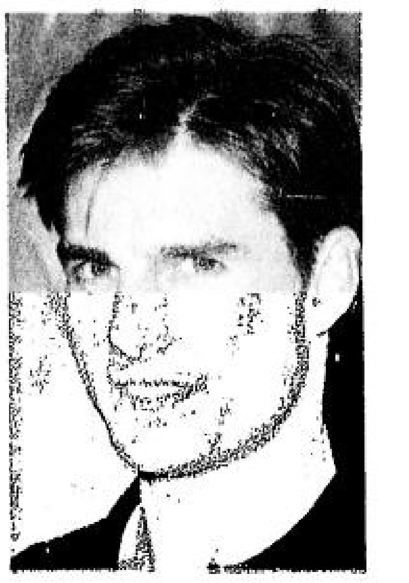
There are surprising entries this year, like Shayamalan, 29, who is No. 9, following the success of "Signs." The director is one of the highest paid writer-directors in Hollywood today. For "Signs" alone, he earned a hefty $12.5 million, plus profit share.

Jennifer Aniston, who used to share the power ranking with her fellow "Friends" costars, now goes solo at No. 32. Thanks to her Emmy trophy as best actress in a comedy series. On the big screen, the wife of **Brad Pitt** earned good reviews for "The Good Girl."

Rapper-actor **Eminem** secured his position in the music industry with the success of "The Eminem Show," his third multi-platinum album. When I watched "Red Dragon" in Atlanta last weekend, I also saw the trailer of Eminem's acting debut, "8 Mile."

Vin Diesel (No. 41), **Cameron Diaz** (No. 43) and "Spiderman" **Tobey Maguire** (No. 45) made it to this year's list, too.

More surprising is the entry of author **J.K. Rowling**, the erstwhile housewife who created a cult following with her four "Harry Potter" novels. She recently wrapped up a fifth, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." The November playdate of "The Chamber of Secrets," the second book, is highly anticipated by muggles.



TOM Hanks, No. 1; Tom Cruise, No. 4; Nicole Kidman, No. 16

'Battle' in Clark

PAMPANGA'S upcoming young bands try to out-perform each other in "'Hallow' Inn Battle of the Bands" on Oct. 31 at the Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field.

Tickets are available for only P100 each, inclusive of one San Miguel Beer. Resort guests get one free entrance ticket.

Call (02)845-1888, (045)599-8000 extension 8-1329, or e-mail hircrnb@comclark.com.

THE MOBB at the Captain's Bar.

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4 JEANNIE, BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?	4 MUNTING TINIG		4 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	4 9 MORNINGS
	5 TUXEDO		5 MR. DEEDS 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	5 PLUTO NASH
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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

Makati
October 31, Glorietta
Magic Show, 3 pm
Trick or Treat for Kids, 1 - 4 pm
October 31, 10 pm, Greenbelt Park
Green Lounge Halloween Ball

Alabang
October 30, 1 - 4 pm
Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder

Cebu
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids
October 30 & 31, 8 pm
Food & Entertainment Center, Halloween Parties

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The Mobb at the Captain's

THE MOBB, a group of nine business executives, entrepreneurs and professionals from bands in the '60s and '70s, sing baby-boomer songs by The Beatles, Dave Clark, The Association and Paul Anka on Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 9 p.m. in the Captain's Bar.

The band includes Ward Howell (Phils) president Gigi Zulueta, drums; Aton Atilano, chair and president of Kohl Industries, bass guitar; Gerry Reyes, chief finance officer of Southeast Asia Foods, lead guitar; Dr. Felix Rivera and architect Jessie Benedicto, rhythm guitar; lawyer Dindo Cinco, keyboard; Prudential Life EVP Toots Policarpio, Unicity top executive Babes Tolentino and Manulife senior executive Jordan Tongson, lead singers.

The Mobb performs monthly at the Captain's Bar. A minimum beverage consumable fee of P350++ per person applies.

For reservation and inquiries, call 750-8888 extension 72446.

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Do we already have a suspect in this latest bombing case?

Guest: Yes, we have a suspect already, according to an eyewitness.

Host: *Ano naman ang mga* description *ng* alleged suspect-terrorist *na yon*, so that our viewers can help to catch him?

Guest: Well, for one is *ayon sa* eyewitness report, medium complexion *ang kanyang mga mata*!

(Uh, come again?)

***

Host: The last bombing was in a bus. What can be done to protect passengers against future such terrorist attempts?

Guest: To protect the future bus passengers, we have to prevent the riding of suspicious people.

Host: But how can we tell those kinds of people? How do they look?

Guest: Well. People who don't really look like the regular people you see in the street!

(Duh!)

***

Host: How long will this fight against terrorism last?

Guest: We must never give up—until the fish is here already!

(Fish? What fish?—Oh, peace!)

***

Host: Can we ask our judges to evaluate the performances they have just heard? Judges, did you like it?

Judge: I think the last contestant was 90 percent perfect!

(How perfect is that?!)

***

Host: How did you feel doing a duet with a famous singer like (name of star-singer)?

Guest: Of course, I'm so happy and gracious that a superstar like her would sing with me!

(That's grateful, dear, not gracious.)

***

Host: I hear so many negative reports about your management style. Do you want to answer the accusations against you? This is your chance.

Guest: I appreciate it, but I also have a right to remain silent—the human right of freedom of the press and of the speech is the universal application!

(Ano daw?!)

***

Host: *Bakit ka naman nagpakita ng* press I.D., *eh hindi ka naman pala* press?

Man in police custody: *Oo nga*, I admit *hindi talaga ako* press. *Pero pinakita ko ang* press I.D. to comfort myself.

(Ay, comfort press!)

***

Host: How do we know if the suspect in this case is guilty or not?

Guest: *Dahil ginawa niya ito, patunayan muna niya na hindi niya ginawa!*

(Uh, please repeat?)

***

Host: When do you expect the next rise in the price of gasoline?

Guest: Maybe the third place of the month.

(When's that?!)

Parenting convention

PARENTING is one of the most important things we do in life, yet the only way we learn it is "on the job," where many mistakes can be made. Is there another way to get an overview on the subject? The Philippine Parenting Convention from Oct. 26 to 29 is one.

To be held at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, the convention features interactive workshops, parent-child bonding activities, special events, entertainment, plenary sessions, an online convention and an expo.

Speakers include Sen. **Francis Pangilinan, Emily Abrera, Francis Kong, Tina Aboitiz-Juan, Chot Reyes, Peter** and **Deonna Tanchi** and **Nomer Bernardino. Anthony** and **Maricel Pangilinan** are the convention endorsers and convenors. Call 433-0387.

Willy Cruz at the Podium

POPULAR composer and musical director **Willy Cruz** performs at the Podium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26. He will play cuts from his album, "Got to Believe in Magic," and some of his own songs.

His well-loved compositions include "Pangarap na Bituin," "Bituing Walang Ningning," "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," "Pati Pintig ng Puso Ko," "Init sa Magdamag," "Never Ever Say Goodbye," "Kumusta Ka," "Fragments of Forever," "Love Without Time," "May Minamahal," "Kapag Puso'y Sinugatan," "Kahit Na," and "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan."

Showgirls show skin tonight

WHATEVER the weather will be like tonight, it will be a lot hotter at the Casino Filipino Parañaque as sexy stars Maui Taylor, Michelle Bayle, Lana Asanin, Maureen Larrazabal, Lolita de Leon, Aleck Bovick, Regine Tolentino, Jenny Miller, Glydel Mercado and Diana Zubiri raise pulses and temperature in their dance concert.

"Showgirls: A Dance Concert" is the first-ever show of its kind. It will be a grand "battle of the bodies" as the 10 screen sirens try to prove which one of them rates the highest in talent and sex appeal.

The show is at 9 p.m. Special guests will be Marissa Sanchez, Alynna and Selina Sevilla, the Whiplash and the Groove Manila dancers.

"Showgirls" is a presentation of Live Artists Production and sponsored by Casino Filipino Paranaque, Master Facial Cleanser, Ambi Pur Car Freshner, Lexber Holiday International, Club Panoly Resort-Boracay and the Manila Bulletin.

For tickets, call Live Artists Production at 920-2643 or 0918-922-1542, and SM Ticketnet at 911-5555.

Hotlegs still cool after 21 years

By Bayani San Diego
Contributor

AS HOTLEGS manager and artistic director Christine Blando remembers it, the idea of their first major concert in 15 years came like a bolt of lightning.

Christine is the only current Hotlegs member who participated in the company's first-ever dance concert, back in 1987, "The Very First Formal Concert."

To celebrate Hotlegs's 21 years, the country's premier modern dance group is performing in "Hotlegs . . . In the Flesh," at Onstage Greenbelt Makati on Nov. 5 and 7, 9 p.m.

"It makes me a little proud," Christine says of the journey that Hotlegs has taken through the years. "In 1987, for the first show, I was just one of the dancers. But this time, we are all very involved in the production, from the conceptualization to the actual mounting of the show. We're all taking an active part in the creative process. It's very interesting. It's a learning experience for all of us."

Since the dance company is, in fact, producing the show, Christine says the members are discovering precious lessons along the way.

"We've realized just how hard it is to put a show together," she says. "In the past, we only considered the creative point of view. But now we've learned to appreciate everything production people have done for us in the past."

Christine reveals that she used to get all angst-ridden about her job as a "dancer." But in preparing for "In the Flesh," she realized just how well-loved and well-respected Hotlegs is in the industry.

"We approached the many people who have been instrumental to our success," she says. "It's as if Hotlegs was the pet project of the entire industry. Everyone was willing to extend a helping hand, from production staffers to big artists. It's so flattering. It tells us that all our hard work didn't go unappreciated all these years."

Now, Hotlegs takes center stage after 21 fruitful, colored years in the biz.

"This is the strongest batch of dancers and choreographers that we've ever assembled," boasts Christine.

The members of today's generation of Hotlegs are working dancers.

"In the past, dancing was just a hobby," Christine says. "The dancers still had 9-to-5 jobs and just went to the studio after office. But of this particular batch of dancers, about 80 to 90 percent are professionals.

"Dancing has become a lifestyle for us. It's our bread and butter. We earn more than enough from dancing so we can now afford to polish our pieces and show off our artistic side."

Hotlegs's best members are all in the country now. Even those who work abroad happen to be in town.

"We thought the timing was just right," Christine says. "Our dancers are in prime form. We asked ourselves, When will we have our own dance concert? When we're already old and gray? If not now, when?"

With "In the Flesh," Christine hopes the always-finicky Pinoy audience would realize that "we are an act by ourselves, that we are not just back-up performers."

In the dance concert, they will show "all the things we can do, all the things we've ever wanted to do," says Christine.

In the '80s, the group was very much on the cutting edge.

"Flashdance the movie had just come out," Christine recalls. "And as early as then we were sporting the so-called Hotlegs look: the tanga, the big hair, the long legs, the high heels.

"Our look has become more playful, but we've also come back to the original Hotlegs look. The dance panties, the long legs and all that. But now it's not just that. We've evolved. Our costuming and styling have become more fanciful, more diverse."

Members Des Guico and Twinkle Zamora collaborate on the costumes for "In the Flesh." But they also turn to pros Maxi Cinco and Raul Ramirez for their costuming needs. For a recent pictorial at the Paco fire station, Raul Ramirez dressed up the entire troupe in haute couture suits and gowns.

"We've also moved into ballroom," Christine says. "We're also doing hip-hop. All styles, whatever is in, we have to master. If you don't stay in touch, you'll get left behind."

Indeed, styles and looks may vary, but the high standard of the Hotlegs kind of dance has remained constant. That, too, is what Hotlegs is celebrating in "Hotlegs . . . In the Flesh."

Tickets are P1,200, P800 and P500, available at Ticketworld.

THE HOTLEGS Dancers

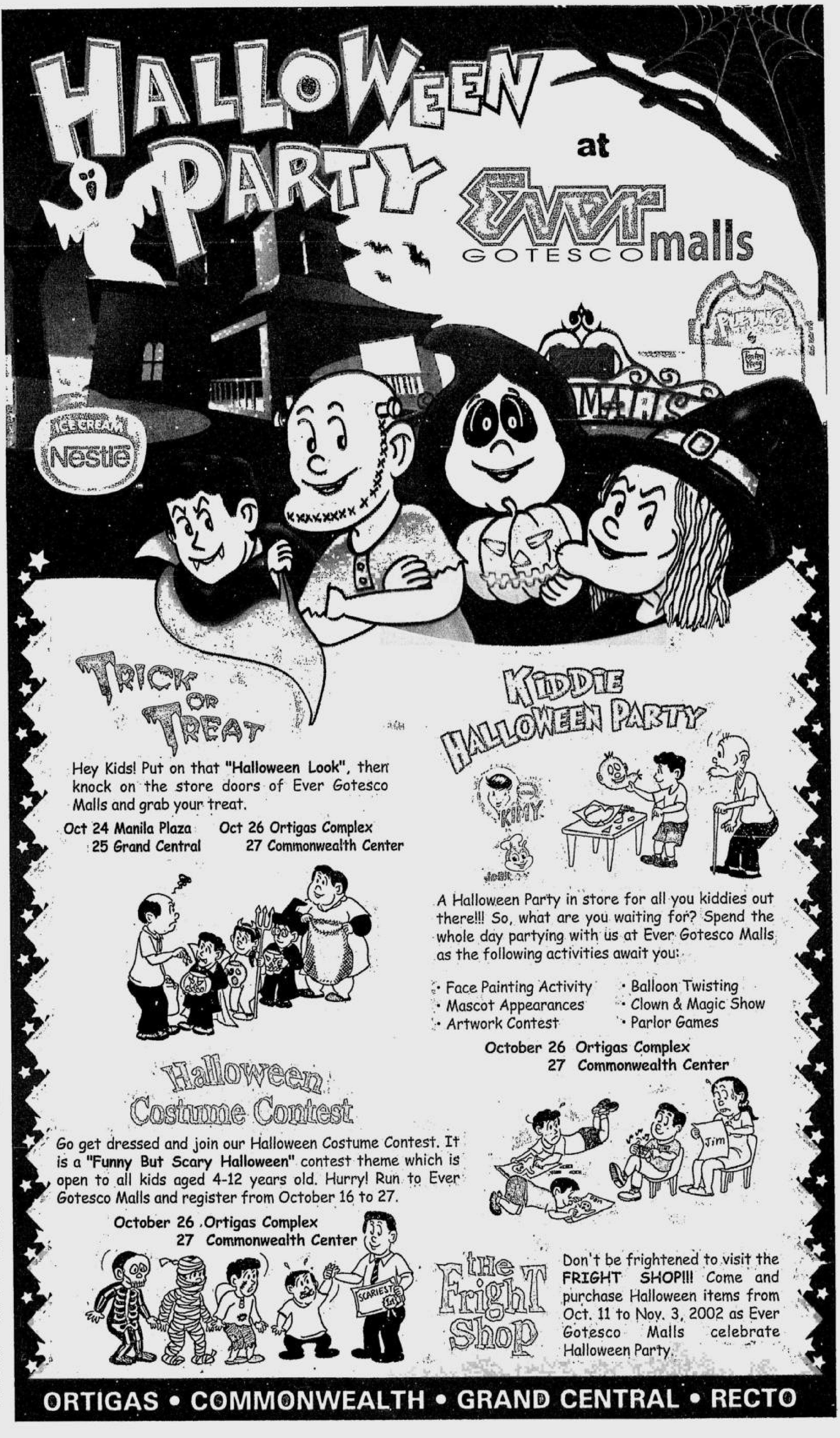
NANETTE Inventor (seated), with Vic Gregorio. Standing behind are Jaye Bautista, Maui Tamsi and Paeng Altavas.

Popeyes and Nanette

TO CELEBRATE its fast expansion in the Philippines, Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits will have mall shows entitled "Love That Chicken," hosted by singer-comedian Nanette Inventor.

The shows will include production numbers of Popeye and Olive, straight from the US. Part of the show is a mime act with balloon sculptures. Prizes await participants of an on-the-spot drawing contest and games.

The first two shows are tomorrow, Oct. 26, 3 p.m., at the activity center of Robinson's Metro East, and on Nov. 10, 3 p.m., at the activity center of Robinson's Galleria. Other shows will be at the new Farmer's Plaza and SM Southmall.



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October 26 Ortigas Complex
27 Commonwealth Center

Halloween Costume Contest

Go get dressed and join our Halloween Costume Contest. It is a **"Funny But Scary Halloween"** contest theme which is open to all kids aged 4-12 years old. Hurry! Run to Ever Gotesco Malls and register from October 16 to 27.

October 26 Ortigas Complex
27 Commonwealth Center

the Fright Shop

Don't be frightened to visit the **FRIGHT SHOP!!!** Come and purchase Halloween items from Oct. 11 to Nov. 3, 2002 as Ever Gotesco Malls celebrate Halloween Party.

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MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

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4 RED DRAGON
5 BED TIME STORY
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1 SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
RED DRAGON
OCT 24 TO 25,SCREENING TIME:6:10PM,8:40PM
" HALLOWEEN RESURECTION "
OCTOBER 26, 2002 SATURDAY
STARING JAMIE LEE CCURTIS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TUXEDO
2 9 MORNING

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 RESERVE
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 MASIKIP MAINIT....
5 PLUTO NASH
6 NINE MORNING
7 (DTS) RED DRAGON
8 (SDDS) BALLISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
9 (DOLBY) HALLOWEEN RESURRETION

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 MASIKIP MAINIT...
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 (SDDS) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
5 9 MORNING
6 (DOLBY) RED DRAGON
7 (DTS) HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
8 TUXEDO
9 BED TIME STORY

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 MASIKIP MAINIT...
2 (SDDS) 9 MORNING
3 (DTS) JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 (DOLBY) HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 RED DRAGON

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 NINE MORNING
2 MASIKIP MAINIT...
3 (DTS) HALLOWEEN RESURRETION
4 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
5 (SDDS) RED DRAGON

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson BED TIME STORY
Lords PROSTI
Jennet BED TIME STORY

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 BED TIME STORY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RED DRAGON
2 BED TIME STORY
3 RESERVE
4 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BED TIME STORY
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 9 MONRINGS
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) RED DRAGON
4 (SDDS) HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 (DTS) PLUTO NASH
6 TUXEDO
7 BALISTIC

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 BED TIME STORY
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 9 MORNING
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 (DTS) RED DRAGON

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
3 (DOLBY) HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 RED DRAGON

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 (DOLBY) HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 (DTS) RED DRAGON
4 9 MORNING

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 9 MORNING
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 (DOLBY) MASIKIP MAINIT ...
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
3 (DOLBY) TOUCH
4 (DTS) 9 MORNING

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (GOLD) JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
3 MASIKIP MAINIT ...

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) RED DRAGON
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) BED TIME STORY
4 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) RED DRAGON
2 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 (DTS) BLOODWORK
4 HUBAD NA MULTO
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 RED DRAGON
3 9 MORNING

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 RED DRAGON
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 9 MORNING
3 (DTS) JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 (DC.EX) TUXEDO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) MASIKIP MAINIT ...
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 LOLLIPOP
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 9 MORNING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 LOLLIPOP
3 9 MORNINGS
4 POSSESSION

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) RED DRAGON
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 (DTS ES) POSSESSION
4 MASIKIP MAINIT ...

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ADVANCED SCREENING · THX · DOLBY · dts · SDDS

Meet
JOYCE JIMENEZ
On October 20 , 2002 / 2:30 pm
@ EVER GOTESCO GRAND CENTRAL
Star of Regal film's MASIKIP, MAINIT, PARAISONG PARISUKAT

Ever Gotesco malls

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888
1 TUXEDO
2 POSSESSION
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 9 MORNINGS
5 RED DRAGON
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 BEDTIME STORIES
8 BALLISTIC

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 PLUTO NASH
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 BEDTIME STORIES
5 BALLISTIC
6 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
7 RED DRAGON
8 THE TUXEDO
9 9 MORNINGS
10 MR. DEEDS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 POSSESSION
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 BESTMAN
4 TUXEDO
5 RED DRAGON
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 BALLISTIC
8 9 MORNINGS
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 MR. DEEDS
11 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
12 BEDTIME STORIES

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 BALLISTIC
2 MR. DEEDS
3 PLUTO NASH
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 THE TUXEDO
6 RED DRAGON
7 FRAILTY
8 THE TOUCH
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 MUNTING TINIG
11 BEDTIME STORIES
12 9 MORNINGS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 THE TOUCH
2 THE TUXEDO
3 MR. DEEDS
4 RED DRAGON
5 BALLISTIC
6 PLUTO NASH
7 MUNTING TINIG
8 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
11 BEDTIME STORIES
12 9 MORNINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 9 MORNINGS
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 BEDTIME STORIES
4 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
5 THE TUXEDO
6 RED DRAGON
7 PLUTO NASH
8 BALLISTIC

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 RED DRAGON
2 MR. DEEDS
3 PLUTO NASH
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
5 TUXEDO
6 THE TOUCH
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 BALLISTIC
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
10 BEDTIME STORIES

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 TUXEDO
2 THE TOUCH
3 BLOODWORK
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 VOODOO
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 RED DRAGON

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 PROSTI
2 CLOSED
3 BLOODWORK
4 9 MORNINGS
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 CLOSED
8 VAN WILDER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 RED DRAGON
3 BALLISTIC
4 9 MORNINGS
5 POSSESSION
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 BALLISTIC
2 RED DRAGON
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 RED DRAGON
2 BEDTIME STORIES
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 RED DRAGON
2 VAN WILDER
3 9 MORNINGS
4 THE TOUCH
5 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
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VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 PLUTO NASH
11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/
9:10/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

2 RED DRAGON
12:10 FS/12:40 MF/3:15/5:50/8:25/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

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Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279
1 THX HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
10:35(MF), 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50(LMF),11:25(END)
2 RED DRAGON
3 MR. DEEDS
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
6 PLUTO NASH
7 MUNTING TINIG
8 9 MORNINGS
9 B EDTIME STORIES
10 TUXEDO

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Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 RESERVED
2 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SERVER
3 9 MORNINGS
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 PLUTO NASH
6 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
7 RED DRAGON

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS
5 JEANNIE ... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
6 RED DRAGON
7 BEDTIME STORIES
8 9 MORNINGS

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SERVER
2 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
3 RED DRAGON
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 TUXEDO
6 9 MORNINGS
7 MR. DEEDS
8 BEDTIME STORIES

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SERVER
3 9 MORNINGS
4 RED DRAGON
5 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
6 BEDTIME STORIES

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
4 VAN WILDER
5 9 MORNINGS
6 THE TUXEDO

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 THE TUXEDO
3 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
4 VAN WILDER
5 9 MORNINGS
6 BLOOD WORK

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270
1 POSSESSION
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
4 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SERVER
5 RED DRAGON
6 RED DRAGON

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Punishment for Hong Kong star 'inadequate,' says justice

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's top justice official has requested a review of the community service sentence given to Canto-pop idol Nicholas Tse for his role in a car crash cover-up plot, a Justice Department spokesperson said Monday.

Justice Secretary Elsie Leung asked Magistrate Allen Wyeth to review the sentences he gave to 22-year-old Tse, one of Asia's top pop stars, and to a police officer also convicted in the case, Justice Department spokesperson Felix Leung said.

Leung, who heads the Hong Kong Justice Department, believed the sentences were "manifestly wrong in principle and manifestly inadequate," he said.

Earlier, justice officials said they planned to review a report from the prosecutor as well as the magistrate's ruling before deciding whether to appeal Tse's sentence.

Christina Ng, a spokesperson for Emperor Group, the parent company of Tse's record label Emperor Entertainment Group, declined comment.

Tse faced a maximum two years in jail after being convicted of perverting the course of justice. Instead, after spending two weeks in jail awaiting sentencing last week, he was given 240 hours of community service.

The two other defendants convicted in the case—a police officer and one of Tse's drivers—each got jail terms.

After crashing his Ferrari on March 23, Tse agreed to let an Emperor Entertainment Group chauffeur stand in as the purported driver.

The chauffeur pleaded guilty and served four months, while a police constable who went along with the scheme was convicted alongside Tse on Oct. 2 and got six months.

No one was hurt in the crash and it remains unclear why Tse wanted to avoid blame.

Canto-pop refers to pop songs in Cantonese, the main local dialect of Chinese. *AP*

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVER
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME / JUST VISITING

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
B	BEDTIME STORY
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-2	POSSESSION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORY
CINEMA-3	BESTMAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-6	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
CINEMA-8	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-15	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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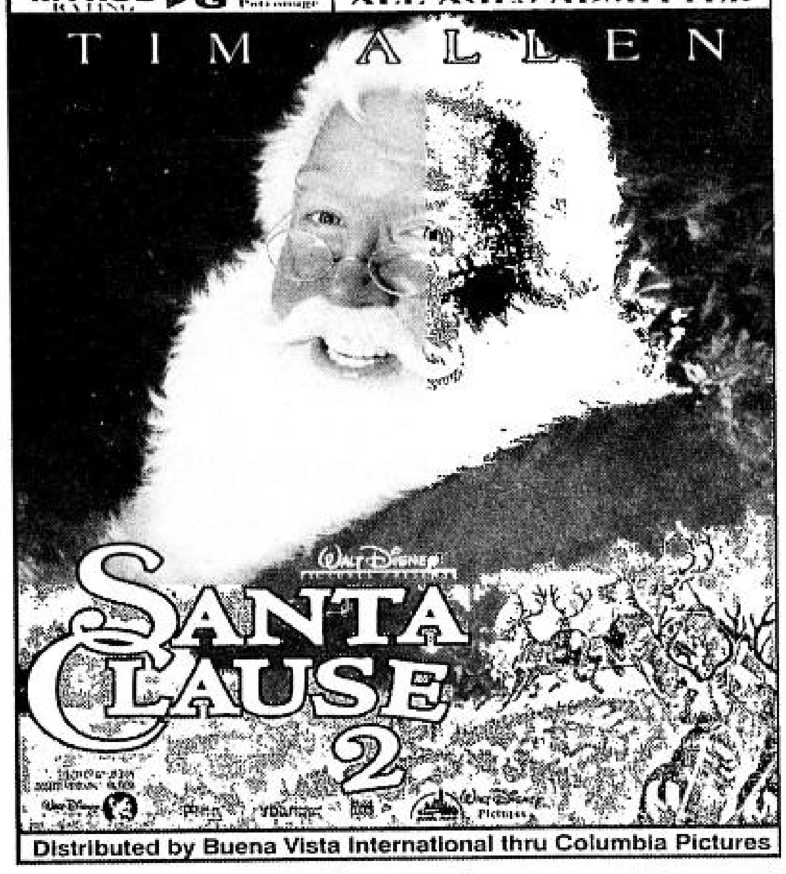
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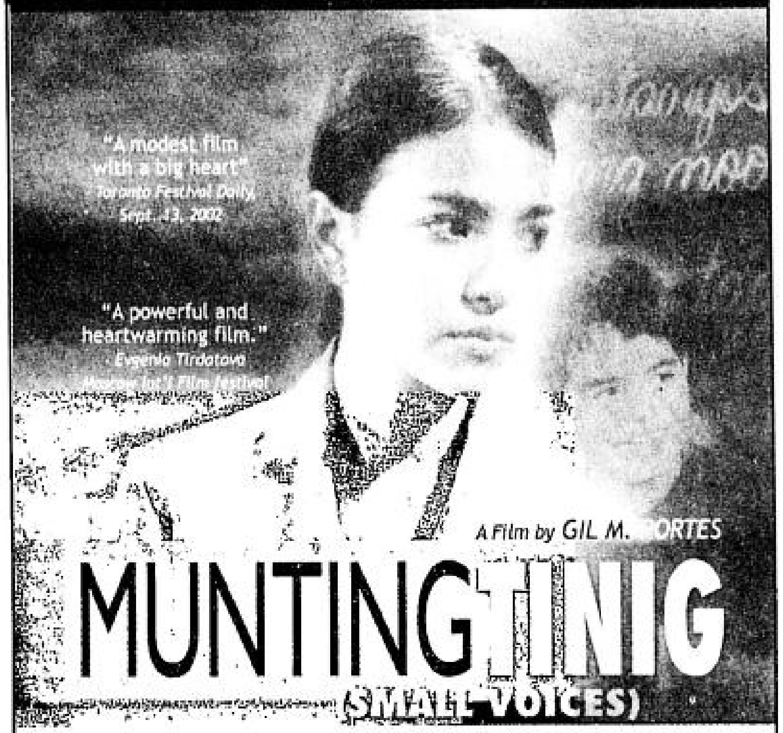
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- Toronto Festival Daily, Sept. 13, 2002
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- Evgenia Tirdatova
Moscow Int'l Film Festival
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MUNTING TINIG
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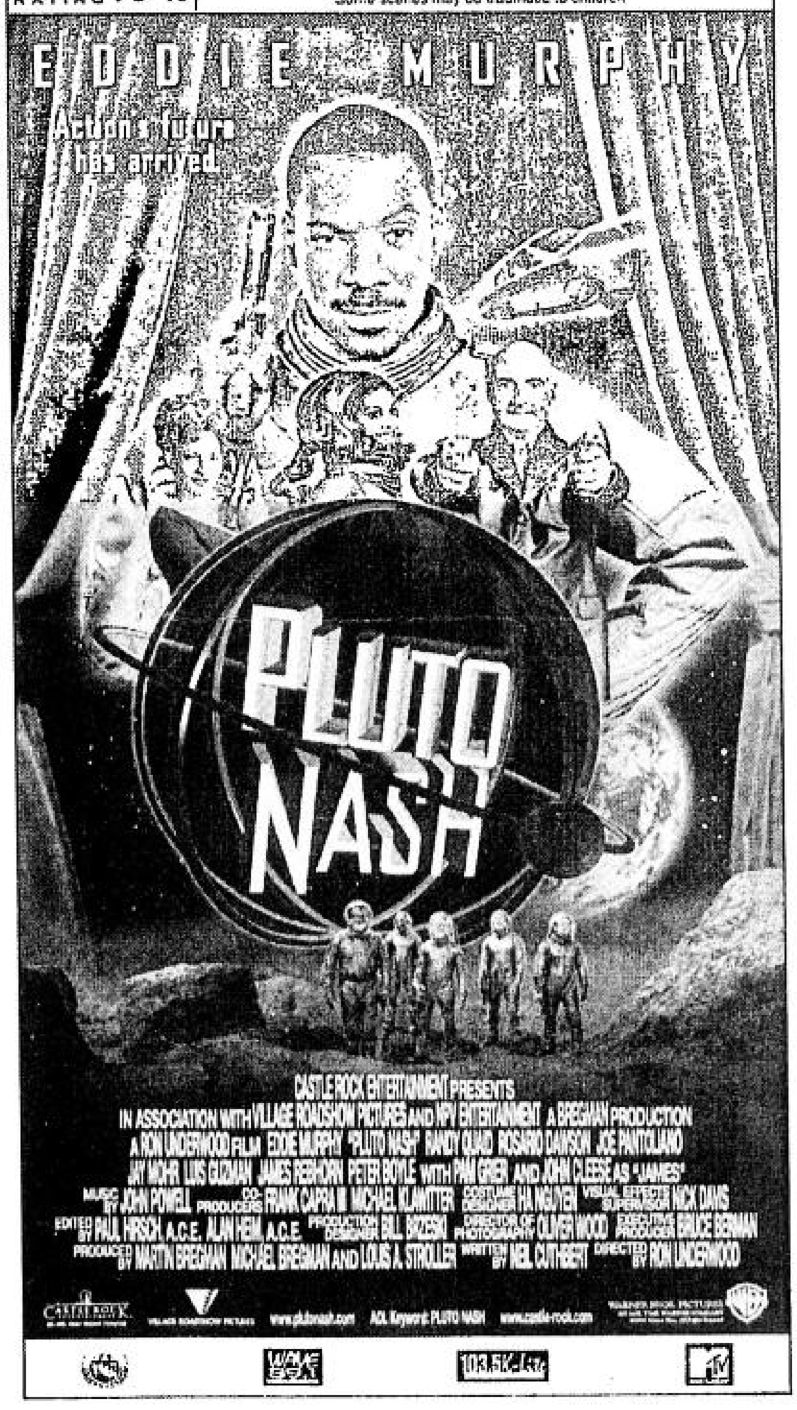
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MUSIC BY JOHN POWELL CO-PRODUCERS FRANK CAPRA III MICHAEL KLAWITTER COSTUME DESIGNER HA NGUYEN VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR NICK DAVIS
EDITED BY PAUL HIRSCH, A.C.E. ALAN HEIM, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER BILL BRZESKI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLIVER WOOD EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRUCE BERMAN
PRODUCED BY MARTIN BREGMAN MICHAEL BREGMAN AND LOUIS A. STROLLER WRITTEN BY NEIL CUTHBERT DIRECTED BY RON UNDERWOOD
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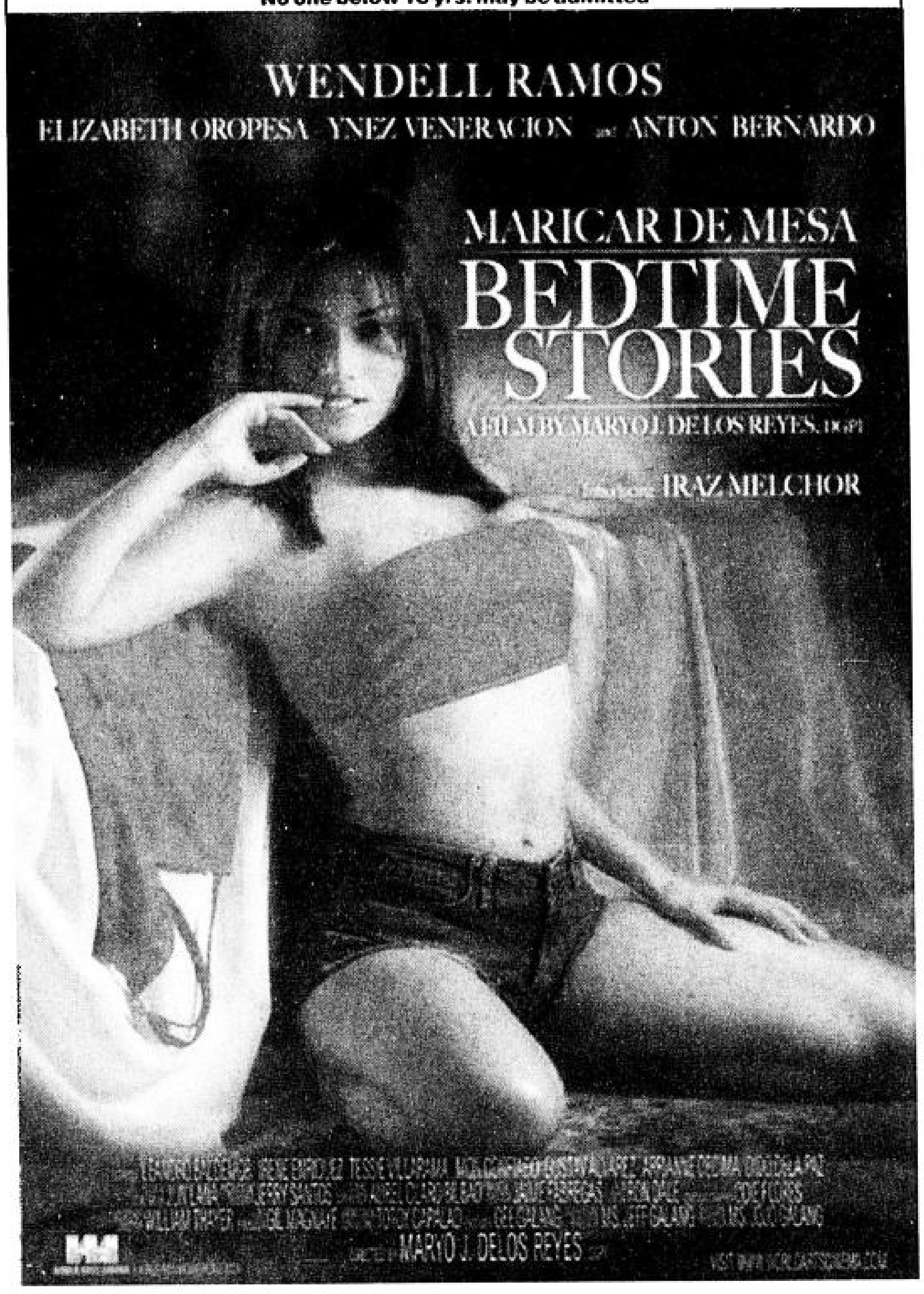
WENDELL RAMOS
ELIZABETH OROPESA YNEZ VENERACION and ANTON BERNARDO
MARICAR DE MESA
BEDTIME STORIES
A FILM BY MARYO J. DE LOS REYES
IRAZ MELCHOR
MARYO J. DELOS REYES

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9 MORNINGS GP 12:00,2:15,4:30, 6:45,9:00	PLUTO NASH P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	BALLISTIC P13 11:35,1:40,3:45, 5:50,7:55,10:00
HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION - P13 11:40,1:40,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	POSSESSION P13 12:20,2:30,4:40, 6:50,9:00	RED DRAGON R18 11:30,2:10,4:50, 7:30,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
Tel : 638 9781 • 85 • 633 8976

1 PLUTO NASH	11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/ 9:10/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END
2 RED DRAGON	12:10 FS/12:40 MF/3:15/5:50/8:25/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1.05 END

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Dreamscape
Masquerade Party with the Little Spooks
Trick-or-Treat & Costume Contest
OCTOBER 27, 2002 (SUNDAY)
Registration for costume contest is from 10am to 12nn, open to holders of Dream Day tickets purchased on the day itself and RDC club members
Get a chance to win cash & other exciting prizes! For inquiries please call 636-2911
SEE POSTERS FOR MORE DETAILS PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO.A3714 SERIES OF 2002

LAUGHTER IN THE DESERT

'Good morning, Afghanistan!'

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—Robin Williams bounds into a bombed-out airplane hangar, his arms wide, his body cocked as if about to catapult into the crowd. It ain't Carnegie Hall, but no matter. Williams is ready to entertain.

"Good morning, Afghanistan!" he bellows, and the crowd of soldiers at Bagram Air Base erupts into cheers. Some clamber on top of shipping pallets, craning for a better view of the comedian.

"I had a lovely military flight, thank you," Williams says. "I love spiraling in—nothing like that to make your colon go, 'Fire in the hole!'"

The soldiers laugh knowingly, and Williams points to the bullet holes in the walls. "And I love the lovely Afghan renovation in the wall!" An aide adjusts his microphone; Williams grabs it and drops into a stage whisper.

"I feel like we're at a golf match," he says, and mimics a sportscaster's voice: "Here we are at the third hole of the Afghan Open. We can't play the 10th hole because it's still mined."

ROBIN Williams

On and on the jokes go, each manic gag getting a bigger laugh. After all, Bagram Air Base is a place short on humor—a harsh, dusty place where soldiers work 12-hour shifts, six and seven days a week, in pursuit of an elusive enemy.

"These guys work so hard, it's good when someone like this comes over and shows support," said Sgt. Jason Gray, 26, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Williams visited Thursday as part of a tour that also included bases in Kandahar, southern Afghanistan, and Qarshi, Uzbekistan. The Army allowed reporters to attend on the condition that they not report on it until he left the country on Sunday. Williams' manager had asked for the restriction because the comedian's family was worried about his safety in a war zone, Col. Roger King said.

Williams spent a day and night at Bagram. He didn't give a full show, but shook countless hands, ate dinner in the mess hall and signed autographs amid a stream of wisecracks. "Ah! Who's hand is that?" he squealed while posing for photos with a group of airmen.

At one point, he picked up an M204B heavy machine gun and struck a "Rambo" pose for cameras as hardened GIs guffawed.

The troops in Afghanistan have not had many famous visitors. Rocker Joan Jett played a concert here last month, and there was a show by Taps & Blue, an Air Force variety troupe. Outback Steakhouse sent chefs to cook a meal at the base in Kandahar, but otherwise there have been few special events to break up the long hours of work.

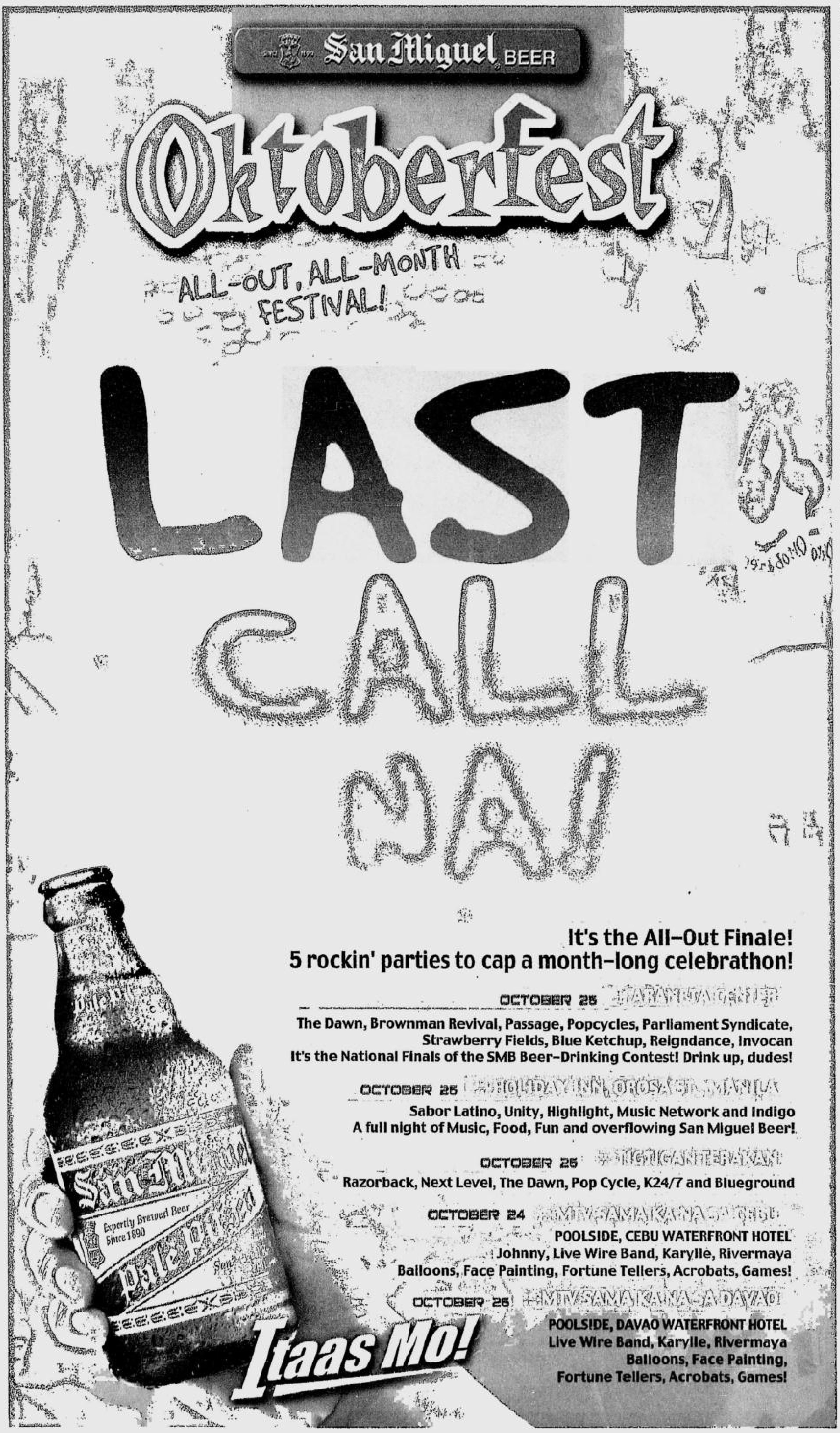
Williams' visit had some hitches. During the visit to the hangar, his manager insisted that no pictures of the comedian include a gun, evoking snickers from the troops. At Bagram, every soldier is required to carry a weapon at all times.

Still, the troops were grateful, and Williams stayed in the hangar until the last autograph was signed. After he departed, the soldiers headed back to work, many of them clutching signed photos.

"This one is going to my wife," said Chief Warrant Officer Todd Champagne of Fayetteville, Virginia. "It's nice to have someone famous here. It's nice to know they think about you."

AP

WELCOME 'HOME'
Former Seawind vocalist Pauline Wilson was welcomed by 105.1 Crossover president and CEO Louie Villar on her arrival in Manila last Oct. 17. Wilson performed with fellow jazz artists Bobby Caldwell and Phil Perry in a successful show on Oct. 19 at the Araneta Coliseum. As Seawind singer in the '80s, Wilson, who has Filipino blood, sang such hits as "Follow Your Road," "Stay," "He Loves You" and "Still in Love." ROGER MARGALLO



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Razorback, Next Level, The Dawn, Pop Cycle, K24/7 and Blueground
OCTOBER 24 MTV SAMA KA NA SA CEBU
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Johnny, Live Wire Band, Karylle, Rivermaya
Balloons, Face Painting, Fortune Tellers, Acrobats, Games!
OCTOBER 25 MTV SAMA KA NA SA DAVAO
POOLSIDE, DAVAO WATERFRONT HOTEL
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Budget woes put RP ratings at risk

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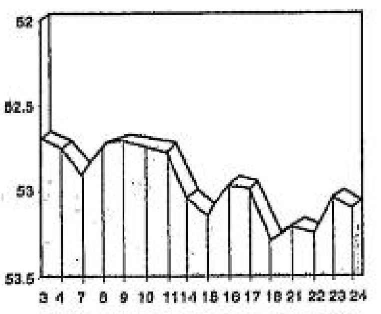

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 24, 2002

¥ 124.46= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 24, 2002

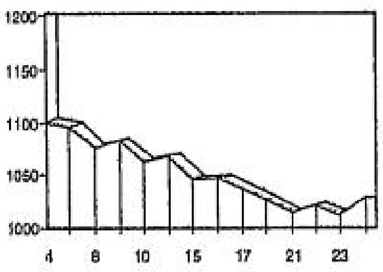
GOLD: $311.60-312.10

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 24, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end up 1.5%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES closed higher yesterday on bargain hunting, inspired largely by the passage a day earlier of vital legislation that would facilitate the banking sector's disposal of nonperforming loans, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 14.73 points, or 1.5 percent, at 1027.59, following Wednesday's 6.44-point, or 0.6 percent, fall to 1012.86, its lowest close in over 11 months.

Blue-chip bank stock Equitable PCI Bank was the most actively traded, up P1.50, or 5.9 percent, at P27, after the Senate passed a measure aimed at developing and maintaining a sound financial sector.

"I think the passage of the bill offers hope for the banking industry and the economy in general," said AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan.

Vistan said the measure would have a multiplier effect, with banks generating more funds for loans with the liquidation of their non-performing assets. This would benefit capital-intensive sectors like property and manufacturing.

Traders said a clutch of other good news, such as the stronger peso and the central bank's report of a $1.084-billion balance-of-payments surplus in the first seven months, also gave investors more reason to accumulate oversold stocks.

The market appeared to have discounted the government's worsening budget deficit, which was reported Wednesday, said BPI Securities senior manager Roberto Cano. *AP*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' swelling budget deficit is putting its vital foreign currency debt rating at growing risk, two international rating agencies said yesterday.

Analysts at Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings had told Reuters that the worse-than-expected budget deficit data released on Wednesday was prompting them to take a close look at whether the Philippines could hang onto its BB+ long-term debt rating.

"We'll have to look at our forecasts and everything to see whether (the Philippines) is still viable within this category or whether we have to do something," Takahira Ogawa, Standard & Poor's director of Asia Pacific sovereign ratings, was quoted by Reuters in a dispatch datelined Singapore.

However, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the rating firms have to appreciate the revenue reform measures that were being put in place to reverse the decline in collection specially of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"What is important is the performance in the last quarter to establish a clearer trend for the coming year," Buenaventura told the INQUIRER.

Credibility, he stressed, was an issue that the government must address and to reverse this, the fiscal numbers for 2003 should be more realistic.

The outlook on the Philippines' BB+ foreign currency rating was raised to "stable" by Fitch in June and by S&P's in April.

A stable outlook indicates a rating is not likely to change. A rating downgrade is usually preceded by a shift in the outlook to "negative."

"If the budget continues to deteriorate at this pace, I think we'll clearly have to look at the ratings again really," Paul Rawkins, Fitch Ratings London-based senior director sovereign ratings, told Reuters in a telephone interview from Hong Kong.

The latest budget data showed a deficit of P166.47 billion for the first nine months of the year against market expectations of around P160 billion and the government's revised full-year target of 4 percent of GDP, or about P155 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho has effectively raised the full-year target, saying the 2002 deficit would not exceed 4.5 percent of 2002 GDP, or about P175 billion.

Ogawa said the deficit could swell further to P180-P200 billion by the end of the year.

Rawkins said the government had shown in the past its ability to contain the deficit by reducing expenditure but added that was not a long-term solution to the problem, which was its inability to raise tax revenues.

Both analysts agreed that, while the Philippines' economic growth and current account surpluses were encouraging, an uncertain global economic outlook raises doubts over Manila's ability to generate higher revenue going forward. *With a Reuters report*

7-month BOP surplus narrows to $1.08B

THE PHILIPPINES recorded a balance of payments (BOP) surplus of $1.08 billion in the first seven months of the year versus a deficit of $917 million in the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas announced yesterday.

However, the BOP surplus has been on a decline, with the seven-month surplus lower than the six- and five-month surpluses of $1.729 billion and $1.889 billion, respectively.

The bank said the BOP surplus for January to July was largely due to the robust current account, which posted a surplus of $3.396 billion in January to July compared with a year-ago surplus of $1.422 billion.

A boost in the current account came from good performances in the goods and services account as well as a substantial increase in the net income account surplus.

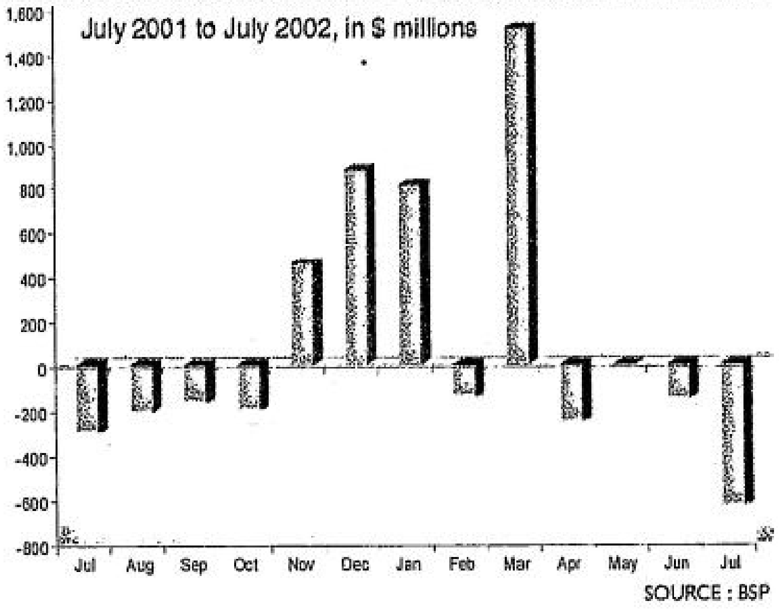
The country's BOP has sustained its positive run but data showed that in July alone, the external payments position was eroded.

The BOP posted a deficit of $645 million during that month as the current account in the same period yielded a deficit of $49 million. At the same time, the capital and financial accounts added a fresh $1.088-billion deficit into the pile.

In June, the external payments position also posted a $160-million deficit as the direct and portfolio investments wobbled while the aggressive foreign borrowings in previous months had

7-MONTH/B6

Balance of Payment



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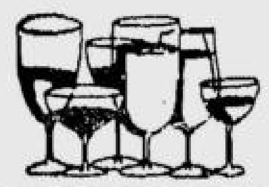
Pasar puzzler

COCKTALES



Victor S. Agustin

FORMER Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez has resigned the chairmanship of Pasar following a festering dispute with his Swiss-based principals.

His vice chair/treasurer, Jose Leviste Jr., has likewise followed suit.

According to the grapevine, Dominguez has given formal notice exercising their put-option that would force the Swiss group Glencore International AG to buy out the Pinoys.

Despite taking over the day-to-day operations of the copper smelting plant, Glencore, controlled by former fugitive US trader Marc Rich, has been keeping a collective tight lip. It has yet to inform the regulatory authorities of the last week's board upheaval.

Dominguez left for the US West Coast immediately after handing in his resignation and, according to the grapevine, would not be back until shortly before the Christmas holidays.

Dominguez and Glencore acquired 90 percent of Pasar only in 1999 in what was hailed as a privatization milestone.

Asian inhospitable

THE ASIAN Hospital has just suffered a corporate seizure.

A group of lawyers representing PLDT chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, in alliance with heart specialist George Garcia, had muscled out Asian Hospital chair Evelyn Singson, leaving her out in the *kangkungan.*

According to the grapevine, Cojuangco has acquired the 30-percent stake of Vista Medical Management Inc., the Singapore-based US venture capital that controls the Alabang hospital. That Vista stake plus the doctors' held by Garcia represented about 80 percent of the proxy votes during last week's stockholders' meeting.

Despite presiding over the meet, Singson, an ex-banker, was outmaneuvered by Cojuangco lawyers from Sycip Salazar. Singson held a paltry 3-percent stake, her personal, plus nearly 9.5-percent proxy votes from Unilab, whose nominee, Rafael de Guzman, was absent during the Oct. 17 coup.

As a result of the takeover, lawyers now dominate the hospital board. Sycip Salazar's Binky Herrera was elected chair, with *compañeros* Rosemarie King and Benedicto Panigbata joining the board.

Gentleman-golfer Leonides Gonzales, part of the Manila Golf/Country Club mafia of Garcia and Cojuangco, was also elected director, despite, according to the grapevine, an amateurish swing of not having a qualifying share.

The hospital has a P1.8-billion loan with a syndicate of local banks, led by the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Healthway going HK-way

RELATED to the Asian Hospital changeover, another Vista-controlled medical facility, the Healthway chain of mall-based clinics, has also been placed on the seller's bloc.

According to the investment-banking grapevine, Edwin Villanueva of Argosy Capital, Vista's financial adviser, is now in an advanced stage of negotiations with a Hong Kong group that has expressed keen interest in taking over Healthway.

Healthway and Asian Hospital are apparently the last of the medical-related investments the US venture fund is disposing of, the concluding chapter of the sell-the-region retreat Vista is executing as a result of the Asian crisis.

According to the grapevine, the Cojuangco group picked up Vista's stake in the Asian Hospital at a bargain basement 70-percent discount.

Where art thou, oh Romarie!

TOP corporate lawyer Romarie "Opap" Villonco is keeping a very low profile these days, three months after that famous full-spread interview given by his famous daughter, singer/actress Cris Villonco.

Opap, a favorite counsel of movie stars and socialites, was last espied in the ruins of the Acropolis, according to publicist Bonjin Bolinao.

Heard through the grapevine

FIRST Pacific principal Anthoni Salim and the Salims' recalcitrant executive, PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan, have been talking again, according to the pro-Salim grapevine.

The latest word is that the Salims have agreed to keep PLDT and dispose of Fort Bonifacio, rather than sell the two crown jewels in one lot.

(After nearly two months' absence, Cocktales is back to resume the thrice-weekly column, which appears Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We thank those who wrote, called, or e-mailed the INQUIRER *and us expressing concern about our unexplained, extended disappearance. Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

POLICY DIFFERENCES

Swiss firm buys out Filipino partners in Pasar

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SWISS metals trader Glencore International AG has consolidated its control of Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar) following the departure of its Filipino partners, led by former Agriculture Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez.

A well-placed source said Glencore and its Filipino partners parted ways due to policy differences that led to last week's boardroom shake-up in one of the region's biggest copper smelters.

Dominguez resigned as Pasar chair and president along with Jose P. Leviste, former trade and industry deputy minister, who served as Pasar vice chair and treasurer. Glencore has tapped Javier Herrero to replace Dominguez as president. The source said Dominguez and his Filipino partners exercised their "put option" to sell their shares to Glencore at a pre-set price.

Dominguez and Leviste have been overseeing Pasar's operations since their group and Glencore, through joint venture Pasar Holdings Inc., acquired the 37.72-percent share in Pasar as well as P33 billion in financial receivables in 1999 from the state-owned National Development Co.

Pasar Holdings paid P3.232 billion for the stake which was the first successful privatization undertaken under President Estrada's term. The deal was challenged by minority shareholders of Pasar led by Teodoro Bernardino for being grossly disadvantageous to the government, but the Supreme Court upheld the sale to Glencore and Dominguez.

Glencore and its Filipino partners have since jacked up their stake in Pasar to 70 percent. The Swiss-Filipino consortium has been credited for reversing Pasar's fortunes from a rundown and bankrupt government-owned firm to a viable export revenue generator. Pasar sells only 10 percent of its output to domestic buyers with the rest sold overseas mainly to China, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Glencore and the Dominguez group have infused more than P600 million for Pasar's Leyte plant, including P200 million for the acid plant rehabilitation to make its operations more environmentally sound.

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BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	44,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41	559,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26	27.5	26	27.5	3,942,700
First E-Bank Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.85	0.91	280,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	29.5	30	431,500
Philippine National Bank	22.75	23	22.75	23	2,800
Security Bank Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	300
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.75	17.25	16.75	17.25	38,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	970	970	965	965	1,480
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	17	17	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	400	400	400	400	4,850
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	900,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	220	227	218	223	256,730
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	16.25	14.5	15.5	58,600
Manila Electric Co. B	19.75	22.5	19.75	22.5	1,654,200
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	732,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	81,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.14	2.16	2.14	2.16	2,070,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	9,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	2,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	3,000
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	580,000
San Miguel Corp. A	55.5	56	55	56	186,900
San Miguel Corp. B	59	59.5	58.5	59.5	401,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.36	60,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	1,200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.22	2.24	2.22	2.24	20,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.32	2.48	2.32	2.48	11,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	3,900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	490,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	3,170,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	209,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	430,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	2,150,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	10,000
Music Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	700,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.22	0.22	2,500,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.52	1.74	1.52	1.74	188,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.54	1.74	1.54	1.7	205,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	17	18	17	18	2,300
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	2,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.6	55,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	30,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16.5	17	16.5	17	125,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	5	4.95	5	6,839,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	1,270,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,800,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	358,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	482,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	18,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	130,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	-0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000

DISCLOSURES

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. appointed Benedicto C. Legaspi Jr. as senior vice president of the bank effective Oct. 16.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Telegraph and Telephone Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. at the Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Record date has been set on Oct. 25.

* * *

ABACUS Consolidated Resources & Holdings Inc. identified Jose Fernando B. Camus and Rodrigo C. Reyes as its independent directors.

* * *

FIRST e-Bank Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. at the First e-Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Record date is set on Nov. 8.

* * *

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) disclosed that starting Oct. 23, it would manage the liquidity of First e-Bank. Integration of the operations of BDO and First e-Bank and validation of the deposits assumed by BDO will continue. Both banks aim for effective transfer of banking operations and branches by December.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. on Oct. 23 purchased 103,000 ILI shares at P1.52 per share and 101,000 ILI B shares at P1.52 per share.

* * *

ELECTED directors of the board of **Philippine Estates Corp.** were Antonio Henson, Dee Hua T. Gatchalian, Elvira Ting, Kenneth Gatchalian, Lisandro Abadia, Yolanda dela Cruz, Arthur Lopez, Renato Magadia, Angel Umali, Arthur Ponsaran and Joaquin Obieta. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 24, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.023856	1.000000	53.238000
Japan	Yen	0.008222	0.008030	0.427500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.585850	1.548900	82.460300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.131284	0.128225	6.826400
Switzerland	Franc	0.681117	0.665247	35.416400
Canada	Dollar	0.654012	0.638774	34.007100
Singapore	Dollar	0.574619	0.561230	29.878800
Australia	Dollar	0.565791	0.552608	29.419700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.715942	2.652661	141.222400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.273006	0.266645	14.195600
Brunei	Dollar	0.572722	0.559378	29.780200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023483	0.022936	1.221100
UAE	Dirham	0.278767	0.272272	14.495200
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.976700	51.997600
Argentina	Peso	0.285197	0.278552	14.829600
Brazil	REAL	0.262931	0.256805	13.671800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134577	0.131441	6.997700
India	Rupee	0.021198	0.020704	1.102200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269472	0.263193	14.011900
Mexico	New Peso	0.103055	0.100654	5.358600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.495742	0.484191	25.777400
Norway	Kroner	0.135590	0.132431	7.050400
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017427	0.017021	0.906200
South Africa	Rand	0.100563	0.098220	5.229000
Korea	Won	0.000838	0.000818	0.043500
Sweden	Kroner	0.109578	0.107025	5.697800
Syria	Pound	0.023164	0.022624	1.204500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029455	0.028769	1.531600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000720	0.000703	0.037400

Sy . . .

From page B5

transaction will be submitted during First e-Bank's stockholders' meeting in December.

First e-Bank parent firm Metro Pacific does not expect to generate much cash from the transaction. However, it said the deal with BDO would enable it to continue focusing on its core businesses like property while ensuring that customers of First e-Bank would not suffer from any interruption of banking service.

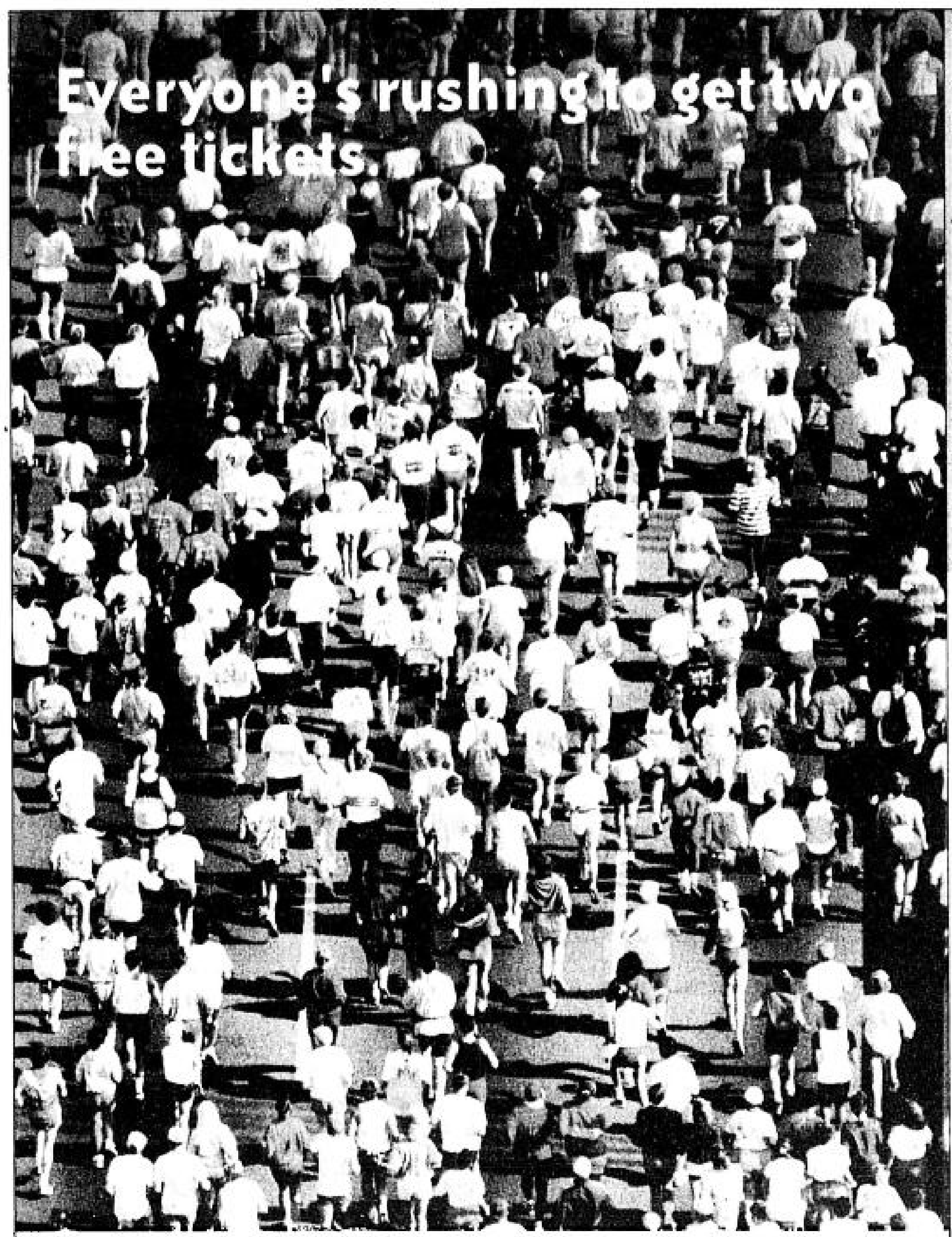
The deal will boost BDO's deposit base by P10 billion and its customer base by an estimated 80,000 depositors comprising mostly of small and medium enterprises.

BDO believes its takeover of First e-Bank will enhance its SME banking business and broaden its consumer lending activities, particularly in residential mortgages.

Combined with First e-Bank's 57 branches, BDO will end up with a total nationwide branch network of 180.

In a separate disclosure, BDO also announced yesterday that it posted an unaudited net income of P772.1 million from January to September this year, 118 percent better than the level chalked up a year ago and the target of P717 million for the period.

BDO's profits were likewise enhanced by non-recurring gains from secondary shares sold during its public listing last May.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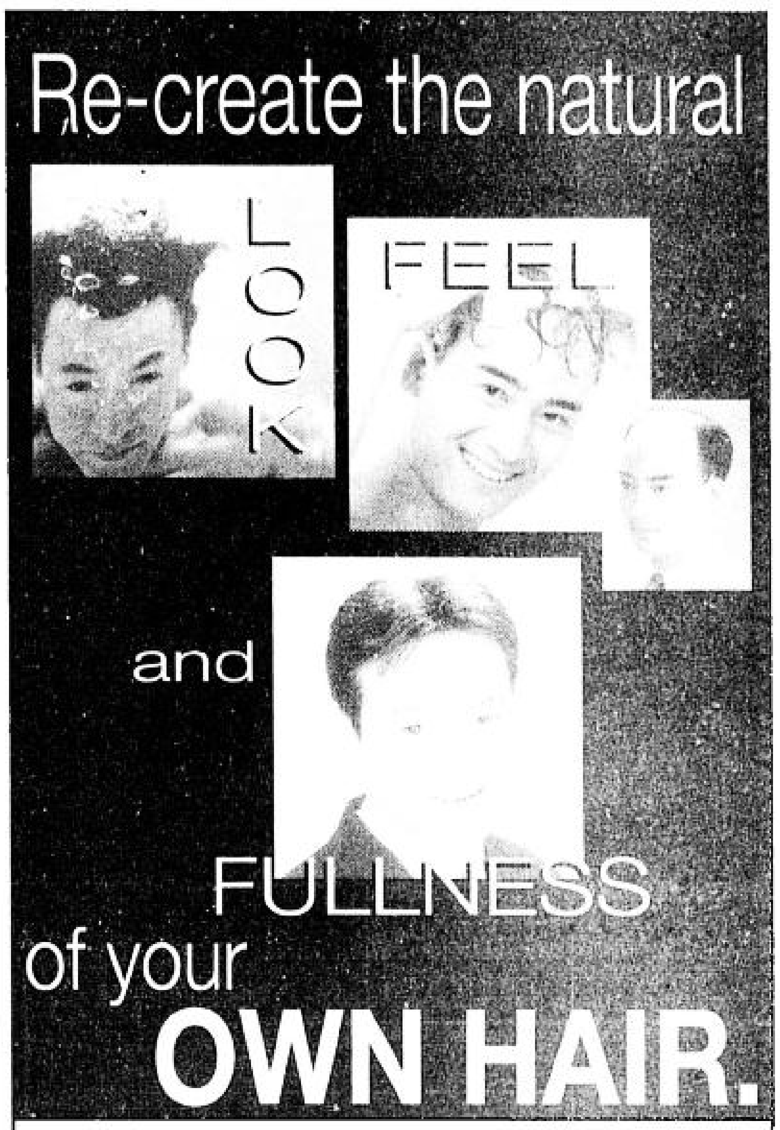
PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
VARIABLE LIFE	Current Week October 22, 2002	Last Week October 15, 2002
Prulink Bond Fund	1.02122	1.01905
Prulink Managed Fund	0.99568	1.00087

* Note: PRULINK Funds were launched last September 18, 2002



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Internet firms accuse PLDT of predatory pricing

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Internet Services Organization (Piso) has formally charged Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. of engaging in predatory pricing and denying Internet service providers access to its infrastructure.

In an eight-page complaint filed with the National Telecommunications Commission yesterday, Piso accused PLDT of charging independent ISPs higher monthly rates for its telephone lines as compared with the rates it charged other business customers.

Piso vice president Jayson Yu said in a news briefing that a normal trunk line would cost a company P1,890 a month, while ISPs paid PLDT almost double that at P2,700 per line a month.

"ISPs are PLDT's biggest customers. We buy thousands of lines from them, and yet they can't even give us a discount. In fact, we, as bulk consumers, are charged even higher than individual customers or ordinary business clients," Piso president Julia Theresa Yap said.

Also, the ISP organization said PLDT's digital subscriber line, or "always on" Internet access, service was priced even lower for individual consumers at P2,500 a month than for bulk consumers like ISPs.

Reacting to these charges, PLDT vice president for media and communications Menardo Jimenez Jr. said in a statement that PLDT's pricing structure "is not designed to monopolize or kill any industry. It reflects fair market prices that the end users can afford and at the same time maximize the use of our infrastructure. We are committed to providing the Filipino consumer with the best possible telecommunications service at the best possible price."

PLDT's myDSL service offers high-speed Internet access that other ISPs cannot offer because they have not been given access to a DSL infrastructure.

Independent ISPs can only offer conventional dial-up service, or Internet access that users will have to sign on every time they use it.

"For one-and-a-half years, PISO members have been repeatedly asking PLDT to open up its DSL infrastructure to us. We have been asking them to quote us a price for the usage of those pipes but they have completely ignored us," Yap said.

Ex-Citibanker takes leap of faith into IT

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

JULIA Theresa "Jojie" Yap worked like any executive of top foreign bank Citibank NA. She put in long hours, worked with a passion and strove to be the best that she could be to help Citibank's Philippine branch grow and prosper.

After close to a decade of working first as a credit officer and eventually as vice president of Citibank, however, the Yale University graduate thought it was time for her to channel her energies elsewhere.

"I really worked so hard for Citibank, and then I thought why can't I devote the same time and energy into my own business," Yap said.

So Yap quit Citibank, and in February 1996, she, her husband, former Rep. Renato Yap, and another partner put up Primeworld Digital Systems Inc., one of the country's first Internet service providers.

"I thought it would be a good business venture because I used e-mail when I was in Citibank to talk to people in London. I saw then the potential of commercializing the service," she said.

She and her partners pooled P5 million in initial capital and used the money to hire people who knew the Internet business.

Primeworld started out with just 15 employees, but its workforce quickly grew the following year when Pacific Internet, the region's leading ISP with operations in six countries, bought a 40-percent stake in the company.

"A major reason why we grew the way we did was the full support of our partner. They have been behind us all the way," Yap said.

Yap admitted that she did not have any experience running her own business, but she managed to grow the company by applying what she learned from her previous job in Citibank and from her dealings with her foreign partner.

THE NET We're Here For You

PATRONS of an Internet café. Following its acquisition of Primeworld Digital Systems Inc., Pacific Internet has become one of the country's biggest Internet service providers.

Pacific Internet's initial efforts went toward getting as many retail consumers to connect to the Internet, but Jojie quickly went back to what she was used to: dealing with corporate accounts.

Pacific Internet combined these efforts to get corporate accounts with its thrust to attract more subscribers through promotions and value-added services, such as providing additional content and applications on top of the basic connectivity service.

Pacific Internet also went into the prepaid Internet service, which is currently enjoying immense popularity among subscribers.

From its 15 original staff, Pacific Internet's workforce has expanded to over 200.

Its operations have also expanded beyond Manila to include Cebu, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas. It has also put up two shops/business centers in Ortigas Center and Quezon City.

Yap said Pacific Internet plans to expand its offerings to subscribers to include broadband access, digital subscriber lines and cable, thus, cementing its position as one of the top three ISPs operating in the country.

Pacific Internet likewise plans to more aggressively push its corporate business to cover hardware, software and providing applications solutions.

To do these, Pacific Internet continuously searches for the right people to execute the programs.

"Finding the right team is a continuing effort," she said.

Big 3 oil firms hire Singaporean firm to redesign Pandacan depot

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S "Big Three" oil firms said yesterday that they had tapped CSPL Philippines Inc. to prepare a detailed engineering design for the planned joint Pandacan oil receiving, storage and dispatch terminal.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex (Philippines) Inc. said in a joint statement that they awarded a P1.9-million contract to CSPL, a local unit of Chiyoda Singapore Ltd.

Expected to be completed by Dec. 30, the detailed engineering plan covers the design calculation, techincal specifications, including drawings and layouts of pipelines and pumps for the proposed shared facility.

Under the contract, CSPL Philippines is also tasked to finalize a tender package that will be used to bid out the contract for the actual engineering work.

Reconfiguring the three oil firms' separate oil depots in Pandacan is part of their commitment with the Manila city government and the Department of Energy on addressing safety concerns in the area.

The oil firms have already started dismantling 28 fuel tanks, which can hold hundred thousands of liters of fuel, representing 40 percent of a total of 70 tanks in Pandacan.

The three oil firms and the Manila city government agreed to scale down the Pandacan depots instead of relocating it through a memorandum of understanding signed on June 27 after a city ordinance threatened not to allow the oil depots to continually operate in Manila.

Electric co-ops see lower rates

By Ronnel W. Domingo

RURAL electric cooperatives are expecting power rates in the provinces to go down by an average 44 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

The Energy Regulatory Commission has issued guidelines writing off the cooperatives' P18 billion worth of debts.

In a seven-page document dated Oct. 11, the ERC laid out data that cooperatives should provide in their application for debt relief.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which aims to help cooperatives compete with the deregulation of the power distribution sector, provides debt relief for cooperatives.

The ERC said loans that were eligible for the write-off included those contracted from the following agencies: National Electrification Administration, Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, Asset Privatization Trust (now the Privatization and Management Office), National Power Corp., Department of Energy and local government units.

The commission said loans from these agencies, except the PMO, should have been secured in accordance with NEA policies and with prior authorization from NEA.

The loans should have been released from the lending agency as of June 26, 2001, or when the power reform law took effect.

The new guidelines require cooperatives to present certifications from NEA and other agencies indicating the total amount approved for condonation.

Sleeping on the job

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WHAT should employers do when they catch their workers sleeping on the job? What is the proper evidence to prove sleeping? Is sleeping a just cause to dismiss an employee? Is it tantamount to gross and habitual neglect of duty or willful disobedience to a lawful order of his superior, which are just causes to dismiss under Article 282 of the Labor Code?

The Supreme Court decided that the employer's decision to dismiss an employee for sleeping on the job "appears to be too harsh a penalty, considering that he was being held liable for the first time, after nine long years," and there were questions on the quantum of evidence submitted to prove the alleged offense.

This was in the case of VH Manufacturing Inc. vs. NLRC (GR 130957, Jan. 12, 2000) decided by the Supreme Court's Second Division through Justice Sabino de Leon Jr. The high court affirmed the decision of the NLRC, which earlier reversed the labor arbiter's ruling dismissing the case of illegal dismissal. Thus, the high court held that, in this case, sleeping did not justify dismissal.

It appears that HCG, a quality control inspector of the company, was allegedly caught by the company president sleeping while on duty. On that very day, the personnel department ordered him to explain why no disciplinary action should be meted on him for violation of a specific company rule. He responded with a handwritten note asking for forgiveness that he closed his eyes and did not notice the president due to the noise in the work area.

The company proceeded to dismiss HCG. He then filed a case for illegal dismissal on July 4, 1995. The labor arbiter dismissed the same on June 20, 1996 on the ground that there was just cause to dismiss him. HCG appealed to the NLRC, which reversed the arbiter on Feb. 27, 1997. On Aug. 14, 1997, the company's motion for reconsideration was denied. The company went to the Supreme Court.

The high tribunal decided against the company. The first ground was management's failure to prove sleeping. The Supreme Court did not rely on the bare allegation of the company without substantial evidence to buttress it. Citing Article 277 (b) of the Labor Code, the court stressed that employers have the burden of proof in illegal dismissal cases.

Secondly, the decided cases cited by the company were not applicable to this case. For one, the case of Luzteveco (15 SCRA 674, 1965) involved security guards "whose duty necessitates that they be awake and watchful at all times inasmuch as their function is to protect the company from pilferage or loss." This case involves a quality control inspector, not a guard.

Thirdly, in view of the nine years of service rendered by HCG to the company, dismissal was deemed too harsh or not commensurate to the offense. Furthermore, the court noted that "there is no evidence on the depravity of conduct (citing Stanford Microsystems, 157 SCRA 410, 1988), willfulness of the disobedience (Villeno vs. NLRC, 251 SCRA 494; SMC vs. Ubaldo, 218 SCRA 293) or conclusiveness of guilt on the part of private respondent (citing Colgate-Palmolive vs. Ople, 163 SCRA 323, 1988).

Based on this decision, this column wishes to clarify that: first, the Supreme Court considers sleeping on the job as a just cause to dismiss, even if committed for the first time, if the offender is a security guard or other personnel who is expected to be watchful all the time; second, for other employees, sleeping will constitute a just cause to dismiss if habitual; third, the evidence must be substantial and not a bare allegation; and, fourth, there must be due process.

We have to clarify further that an employee cannot be considered to be sleeping merely because he is closing his eyes. Sleeping involves a temporary crossover into a state of semi-consciousness. Webster defines sleeping as the natural periodic suspension of consciousness during which the powers of the body are being replenished or restored. (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, pp. 1107) It is, to psychoanalysts, one of the human body's natural defense mechanisms against fatigue, exhaustion and disease.

We, therefore, urge employees to study further the biological and psychological realities behind sleeping and not to rush terrorizing the looks on workers who may be suffering from extreme tiredness or weakening of the bodies. They have also to proceed with caution and not disregard the requirements of due process.

On due process, the Labor Code (Article 277b) is very clear that the employer must issue a written notice specifying the charge and not merely order the employee to explain. Then, under the DOLE guidelines (Dept. Order 9, Series 1997), there must be a hearing and the employee under investigation must be assisted by a counsel. Then, if found guilty, the employer should issue a written notice of decision.

Therefore, both on substance and on procedure, an employer must comply with the requirements of the law or face the consequences of an adverse ruling, which means reinstatement of the employee without loss of seniority rights and full back-wages with moral and exemplary damages in proper cases. This is not to mention the litigation expenses and the tremendous burden of facing protracted legal battle.

NOTICE TO ALL DESTINY CABLE TV SUBSCRIBERS

Effective midnight of October 14, 2002, the Star Group de-authorized Destiny Cable from carrying five (5) of its prime channels in Metro Manila – **STAR Movies, STAR World, Star Sports, ESPN** and **National Geographic Channel**. Destiny Cable was only informed of STAR's unilateral decision in a faxed letter from Mr. Charles Pollard, Star's Regional Director, last October 4, 2002. The letter, however, failed to indicate any compelling reason or explanation for abruptly pulling the plug on Destiny except that it is "the end of contract." STAR's action leads us to question its genuine concern for cable subscribers and the real motive behind denying you these channels. We emphasize that Destiny Cable has constantly exerted much effort in developing professional and cooperative relationships with its partner channels. We reiterate that **Destiny has continually fulfilled its contractual and financial obligations to STAR without any incident since 1996.**

In light of the absence of the 5 STAR channels, **we are pleased to announce that Destiny Cable will be reducing its monthly subscription fee from P 520.00 to P 450.00 effective October 1, 2002.** The new rate shall remain in effect until such time more suitable premium program replacements are found. Statements received for the October charges but still do not reflect the new rate will be entitled to a rebate. The applicable rebates will be reflected on the next billing statement. Pre-paid six (6) months and one (1) year plan subscribers shall likewise be entitled to rebates. For more details, please contact a Destiny Cable Customer Care representative.

Lastly, we wish to assure all our subscribers that we are exerting all efforts to maintain the same mix of programming that you deserve. As we seek a favorable resolution, we hope you see this through with us. Thank you very much for continuing to give us the opportunity to serve you.

You may contact us through phone 841-9333, fax 813-0237, email customercare@mydestiny.net or text 0917-873-3533 / 0917-873-8580.

Sincerely,

Destiny Cable, Inc.

(Rates are applicable to Metro Manila subscribers only.)

DESTINY
CABLE, INC.

Sy bank to absorb ₱10B worth of e-Bank debts

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, the banking arm of retail tycoon Henry Sy, has executed an agreement to absorb up to P10 billion worth of liabilities held by Metro Pacific Corp. subsidiary First e-Bank Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, BDO corporate information officer Elmer Soriano said BDO had started managing the liquidity of First e-Bank last Wednesday preparatory to the planned integration of the two banks by December.

He said a supplemental agreement to the memorandum of agreement signed on Sept. 27 took effect on Wednesday, wherein BDO agreed to assume up to P10 billion of deposit liabilities, other liabilities and certain bills payable in consideration for its purchase of First e-Bank's select assets.

"Integration of the operations of BDO and First e-Bank and validation of the deposits assumed by BDO will continue. Both banks aim for effective transfer of banking operations and branches by December 2002," Serrano said.

The agreement is still subject to approval by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the stockholders of First e-Bank. The

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2:00 - 3:30pm Car Handsfree Device .... by: Golfelec.com Trading
4:00 - 5:00pm Code Red & Red Alert Vehicle Security System .... by: Miles & Levels Phils.

NOVEMBER 9 (SAT.)
2:00 - 3:00pm Driving Tips On How to be Fuel Efficient .... by: ISUZU Phils. Corp.
4:00 - 5:00pm Code Red & Red Alert Vehicle Security System .... by: Miles & Levels Phils.

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Four (4) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets

Promo Mechanics:
- Open to anyone who purchase Shellane LPG whether for a refill, a cylinder purchase, cylinder swap or Shellane stove promo purchase.
- Purchase can be from any authorized Shellane retail outlet, distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or through Shellane Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery.

Raffle ticket allocation is as follows:
Every purchase of 11 kg. refill - 1 raffle coupon
Every cylinder swap - 1 raffle coupon
Every purchase of 11 kg. cylinder w/ refill - 2 raffle coupons
Every purchase of stove promo package - 4 raffle coupons

- Customer shall fill out the raffle coupon with Name, Address, Tel. #, Name and Address of Shellane Retail Outlet and Signature.
- Drop raffle coupon(s) in drop boxes located at all authorized Shellane distributor showrooms and retail outlets.
- A winner can win only once per draw. All non-winning coupons per draw will be automatically included in the succeeding draws.
- The Shellane retail outlet indicated on the winning coupon will receive the same prize as the end user. If in case the source of purchase is a Shellane distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery, another ticket will be drawn until a winning retailer is determined. This extra draw will be done after all the end user prizes have been awarded; the end user owner of the original ticket drawn stays on as a prize winner.
- There will be three monthly draws:

Monthly Draws Schedule of Monthly Draws
First November 29, 2002
Second January 10, 2003
Third January 30, 2003

Monthly Draws Deadline for Submission of Entries
First November 15, 2002
Second December 26, 2002
Third January 15, 2003

- The raffle draws will be held in the following locations:
Northeast Luzon - PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
Northwest Luzon - PSPC Rabon LPG Depot, Rabon, Rosario, La Union
Central Luzon - PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
North Metro - PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, Tatalon St., Barrio Ugong, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
Central Metro - PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro - PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
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Cebu/Bohol - PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901, Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas - PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte - PSPC Anibong LPG Depot, Rawis, Anibong, Tacloban City
North Mindanao - PSPC Villanueva LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
South Mindanao - PSPC Sasa Installation, Sasa, Catitipan, Davao City

- Draws will be made in the presence of a DTI representative and Shellane officers.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail.
- Winners can claim their prize(s) from the nearest Shellane distributor showroom.
- To claim prize(s), winners must present the registered notice together with the claim stub and at least one valid ID.
- Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation with prior approval of DTI.
- All employees of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, all Shellane distributors, the advertising agency including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3310 Series of 2002

Destiny cuts rate by 15%

By Abigail L. Ho

BELEAGUERED cable television firm Destiny Cable Inc. slashed by almost 15 percent its monthly subscription rate to P450 from P520 in light of the pullout of five of Star Group Ltd.'s top rating channels from its lineup.

In a notice to its subscribers, Destiny said the reduced rate would apply from Oct. 1 up to the time new channels were added to replace Star Group's ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic.

It added that subscribers who received their October billing statements not reflective of the rate cut were entitled to rebates which would be reflected in their next billing statements. Six-month and one-year prepaid plan subscribers were entitled to rebates as well.

On Oct. 14, Star Group pulled the plug on Destiny for five of its top channels because of unspecified "commercial reasons." This led the National Telecommunications Commission to draft the guidelines that would ensure fair play in the cable television industry.

The proposed rules require program providers, distributors and vendors to register with concerned government agencies, and prohibit them from entering into exclusivity agreements with any cable operator.

The draft guidelines also require foreign program providers to have in-country agents who will oversee their businesses in the country.

These local agents must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, in case of corporations, or the Department of Trade and Industry, if single proprietorship. They should also get accreditations from the NTC.

Program providers are also strictly prohibited from "engaging in unfair or discriminatory and anti-competitive practices in the sale or distribution of satellite cable and satellite broadcast programs.

They are also prohibited from adopting and enforcing anti-competitive marketing and management agreements, such as entering into exclusive contracts with cable operators for the distribution or sale of satellite cable and broadcast programming that is tantamount to exclusivity."

IC maker investing ₱700M for expansion of RP plant

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

YAMAICHI Electronics Co. Ltd., the world's largest maker of integrated circuit (IC) sockets and connectors, is investing nearly P700 million to expand the operations of its Philippine subsidiary, Pricon Micro-Electronics Inc.

Yamaichi, which owns 80 percent of Pricon, intends to expand its product line in its factory in Carmelray Industrial Park to include printed circuit boards, and semiconductor and connector assembly used for radio, television and communication equipment.

The new project bolstered the Philippines' bid to promote itself as a viable site for the production of computer chips despite the emergence of China as the most preferred foreign capital destination in the past few years because of its cheap labor and huge market.

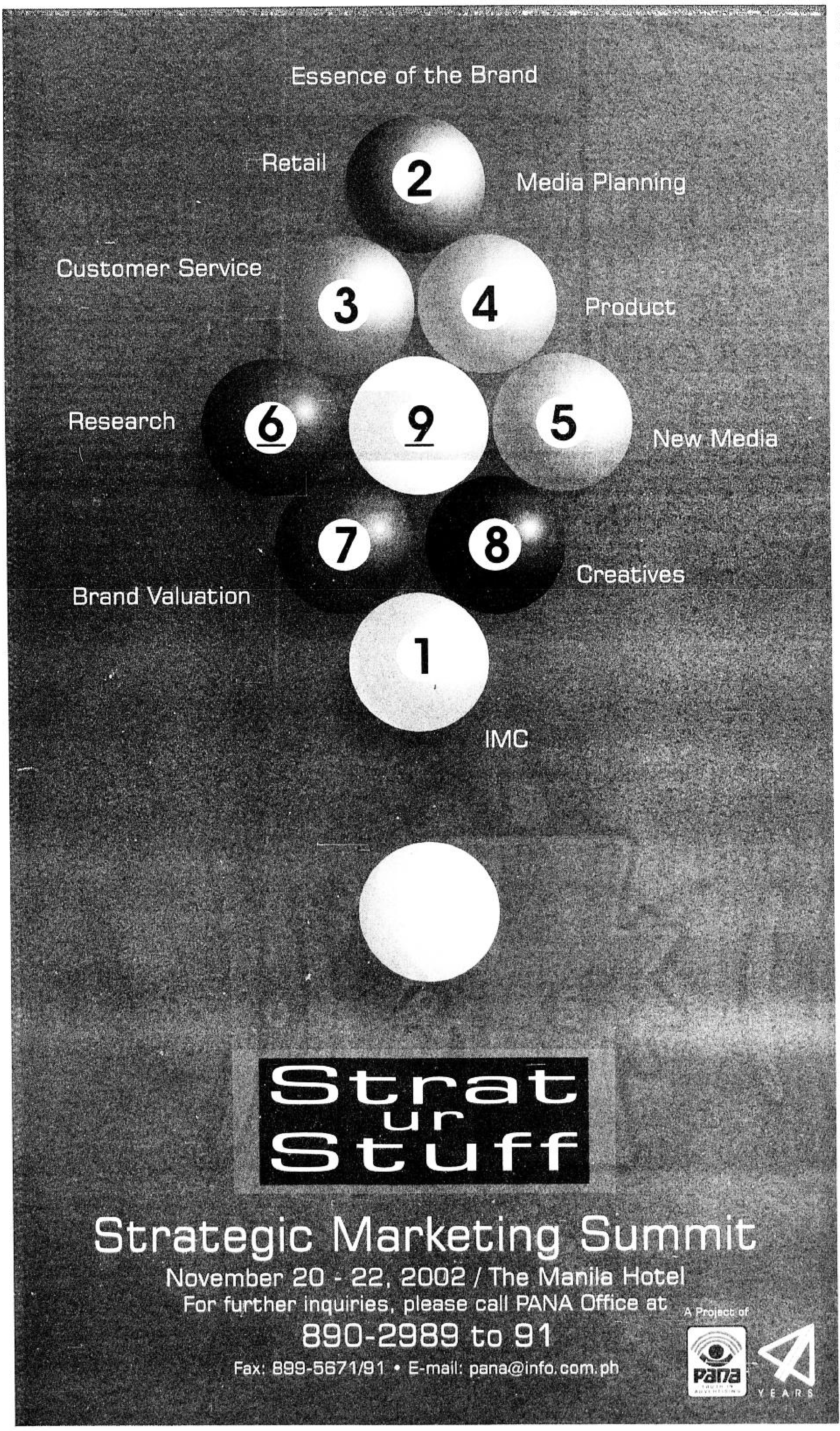
The Semiconductor and Electronic Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) said the country would need to generate at least $33 billion in new investments in the industry over the next six years to meet its lofty goal of hitting $100 billion in exports and generating 1 million jobs by 2008.

Pricon's new venture was granted fiscal incentives by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority as a new project eligible for the maximum tax perks.

Yamaichi will invest P682.51 million for the expansion of its existing factory which currently produces metal stamping and plastic mold for semiconductors. The new line will start operations by August next year.

Pricon has already invested a total of P467 million since it started its operation in the Philippines in 1997. Its first investment was P110 million for the production of plastic molds with IC socket assemblies and it spent another P357.33 million in 2001 for its first expansion project.

Yamaichi is highly regarded for its ability to manufacture high-quality and high-reliability components used in the most demanding applications of electronic systems, including those of high temperature environments. Aside from the Philippines, Yamaichi has factories in Japan, China and South Korea.



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SEC approves Makati Finance IPO application

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday approved the application of leasing and financing firm Makati Finance Corp. to sell 25-33.4 percent of its shares through an initial public offering at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The SEC approved the registration of 18.6 million to 27.7 million common shares with a par value of P1 per share at a price range of P1.17-P1.50 per share, SEC documents showed.

Following the SEC's approval, MFC has to get the go-ahead signal from the PSE before it could proceed with its listing on the small and medium enterprises (SME) board. The company has yet to set its IPO date.

There is currently only one SME listed on the third board of the PSE—software service firm SQL Wizard Inc.

MFC was incorporated in 1966 under the name Makati Investment and Finance Co. It was initially involved in stock dealership functions, extension of credit lines and the acceptance of placements. In the mid-'70s, the company shifted to leasing and financing operations and is currently focused on two main loan products: consumer loans to medical professionals and factoring of receivables.

MFC is 51-percent owned by Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation, an investment house owned by Singaporean and Filipino investors. It specializes in money market operations, trading, debt and equity underwriting and mergers and acquisitions.

All existing shareholders have voluntarily agreed not to sell their shares according to the formula prescribed by the PSE. In addition, the company shall not issue additional shares within 180 days from listing date.

MFC has tapped Abacus Capital & Investment Corp. as its underwriter for the IPO.

The company is expected to generate between P9.3 and P18.18 million from the IPO, half of which will be used to retire outstanding notes payable for which it is paying an average interest rate of 14 percent. The remaining half will be used to boost lending to medical professionals.

MFC's main loan product, Rx Cashline, accounted for about 90 percent of its total net loan receivables in 2001. This facility caters to medical professionals in the Metro Manila area, although marketing operations have been expanded to the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan.

7-month BOP . . .

From page B1

slowed down.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a statement that the seven-month BOP surplus was on track with meeting the government's modest positive payments target this year of $149 million in surplus from a deficit of $192 million in 2001.

Buenaventura had said the country's BOP position should improve to a surplus of more than $200 million in 2003.

An indicator of investor confidence and the country's ability to settle its obligations, the BOP is influenced by two items. One is the current account that reflects movement in trade and the other is the capital and financial account that mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

A BOP surplus means there are more dollar inflow than the outflow as a result of trade, investment and borrowings. A strong payments position helps stabilize the local currency as it staves off demand for dollars.

From January to July, the current account yielded a surplus of $3.396 billion or 139 percent more from the previous year.

The positive movement in the trade account reflected the recovery of exports to a growth of 23.6 percent in July, the highest level in 18 months. This brought the seven-month exports to $19.39 billion or 7.5 percent more compared with its level a year ago.

From January to July, imports went up by 5.8 percent to $18.24 billion, reversing the 0.9-percent decline a year ago.

New Fed survey finds US economy 'sluggish'

TRADERS and specialists work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shortly before the closing bell Wednesday. Wall Street managed a modest advance, rising for a fourth time in five days. AP

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve painted a somber picture of weak retail sales, tough times in manufacturing and a lackluster job market in its latest survey of business conditions.

Many analysts said the report released Wednesday increased the chances the Fed will cut interest rates in November.

Compiled from information supplied by the Fed's 12 regional banks, the survey depicted an economy that was battered in September and early October by a host of problems, from a plunging stock market to the West Coast dock shutdown.

The Fed's Dallas regional bank, for example, reported that business contacts in its region "were significantly more pessimistic about the outlook for growth through the rest of the year, citing concerns about war, terrorism, the dockworkers' (shutdown) on the West Coast, declining stock market and upcoming elections."

Fed policy-makers next meet on Nov. 6, the day after voters go to the polls, to set interest rates. The Fed has left its benchmark overnight borrowing rate at a 40-year low of 1.75 percent since last December, when it made the last of 11 rate reductions aimed at lifting the country out of recession.

However, this year's recovery has proceeded in fits and starts as businesses have remained hesitant to increase spending to modernize and expand production in the face of weak demand, a plunging stock market and falling consumer confidence.

The expectation of a possible Fed rate cut increased following the Fed's last meeting on Sept. 24, when two Fed policy-makers dissented from the majority decision to leave rates unchanged.

Analysts were struck by the bleak tone of the Fed survey, which is prepared eight times a year to give policy-makers a look at business conditions around the country before their interest rate meetings. The document is known as the "Beige Book" for the color of its cover.

"I can't remember the last time the Beige Book was this pessimistic. It reflects the weak economy we have been experiencing," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis.

Sohn said he believed the Fed would cut rates by a half-point—not its usual quarter-point—at the November meeting in an effort to restore confidence to a battered Wall Street.

Other analysts were not as certain of a rate cut, arguing that the Fed may be content to leave rates alone if the stock market rally of recent days continues.

The low rates have already proved a boon to home and auto sales and mortgage refinancing.

Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan did not tip his hand on interest rates during a speech Wednesday to a conference on productivity, although he did predict that the resurgence in productivity growth that the country has enjoyed since the mid-1990s should continue for a while longer.

But he cautioned that the boost productivity receives from a wave of new technology has eventually waned in the past. *AP*

Resolve policy dilemma, Japan urged

TOKYO—Risking a revolt in his own party, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi stood firm in support of his besieged bank regulator on Thursday, backed by signs that the Bank of Japan would help ease the pain of tough reforms.

Investors called on the government to act fast to end the policy logjam, a sentiment echoed in Washington by the International Monetary Fund, while the uncertainty over Japan's economic policies hit stock prices in Tokyo.

"The business community is expecting and waiting for reform, but what worries us today is not so much that this reform is coming, it is the hesitation around the reform," Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. President Carlos Ghosn said in a television interview.

Opposition parties, anti-reformers in the ruling coalition and some private banking industry analysts have criticized Takenaka's tough solution to end a 52.4-trillion yen ($421 billion) backlog of bad loans.

Koizumi, however, vowed to forge ahead.

"We will press on, listening to various opinions and following the basic policies," Koizumi told reporters.

Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka stunned investors on Tuesday by delaying his widely expected report on cleaning up the huge bad loans clogging the banking system—one of the nation's most urgent problems.

Responding to concerns that a hard-nosed approach would do more harm than good, the BOJ was considering easing its already hyper-loose monetary policy at a board meeting next Wednesday, local media said.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun quoted BOJ Governor Masaru Hayami as telling Koizumi he would "do whatever is necessary" to help the government fight deflation. *Reuters*

Honda, Toyota set for record first-half profits

TOKYO—Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. are set to report record profits for the six months to September, underlining the strength of Japanese automakers, which are enjoying robust sales in North America.

Japan's top two automakers do not give forecasts for half-year group operating profit. But an average of four analysts' projections put the figure for Honda at around 337 billion yen ($2.7 billion), up 4.7 percent from the same period last year.

Business daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported on Thursday that Toyota would post a 42-percent jump in its operating profit to 720 billion yen, which would be far above an analysts' consensus of about 630 billion yen.

The auto industry has been one of the few sectors to enjoy rosy profits in Japan, where most companies continue to be affected by a shaky economy.

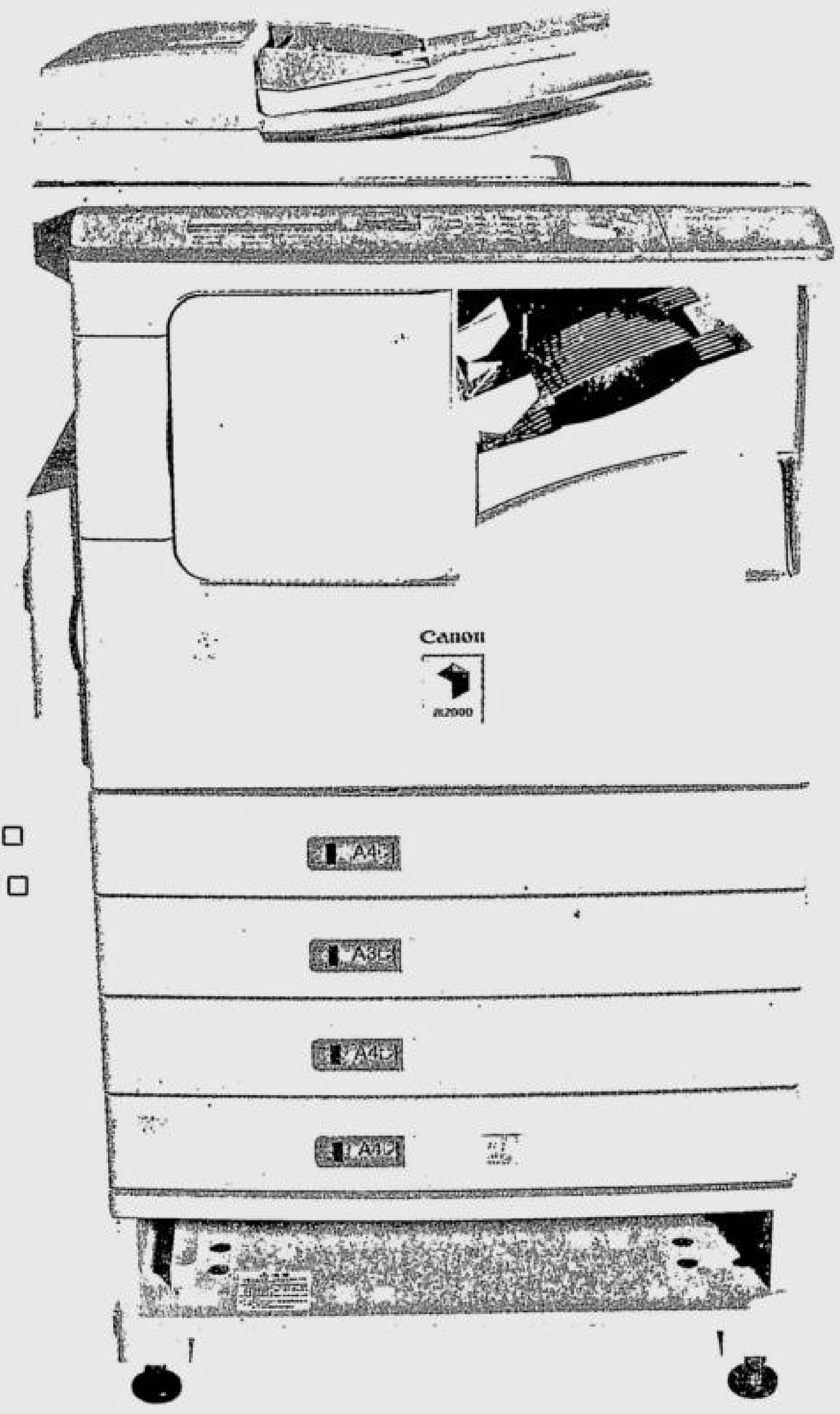
Third-ranked Nissan Motor Co., which has staged a spectacular revival from near bankruptcy in the past few years, surprised industry watchers on Wednesday by reporting an 84-percent surge in half-year operating profit. It also lifted full-year forecasts by 30 percent.

Analysts said profit swings are normally less wild at Toyota and Honda since their businesses are more stable.

But the Nihon Keizai said Toyota likely cut costs by over 100 billion yen as part of its aim to reduce procurement costs by 30 percent over three years. Nissan's bigger-than-expected leap in profits was largely due to savings of 102 billion yen in purchasing costs.

For Honda, although it posted record profits in the first quarter, results were far worse than many expected and most analysts foresee much the same for the six months to September.

"The Accord and Civic are not contributing to the first half and that's putting pressure on profitability in North America," said Steve Usher, senior analyst at JP Morgan. *Reuters*



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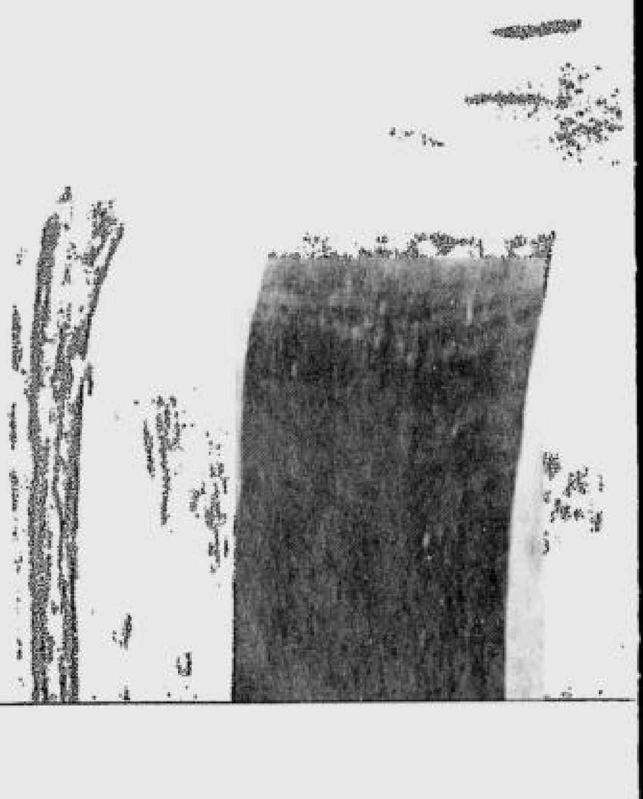

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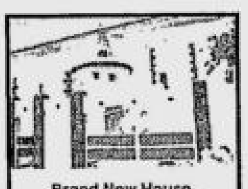

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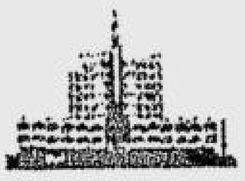

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 21
IMUS, CAVITE

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT WITH APPROVAL OF PROPOSED REHABILITATION PLAN

SEC CASE NO. 023-02

TOWN AND COUNTRY ENTERPRISES, INC.,
Petitioner.
x--x

STAY ORDER

This is a petition for the declaration of state of suspension of payments with approval of proposed rehabilitation plan filed by petitioner Town and Country Enterprises, Inc., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines with principal place of business at No. 57 Don Placido Campos Ave., Dasmariñas, Cavite, praying that (1) upon filing of this petition, the corresponding Stay Order be issued pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation, and particularly directing the banks to desist from depositing all checks of the petitioners that were issued to the creditors including but not limited to the checks issued as double collateral and amortization checks issued and thereafter, calling for a meeting of the creditors and the publication thereof and that (2) after due proceedings as mandated by law, judgment be rendered declaring the petitioner in a state of suspension of payments and approving the Proposed Rehabilitation Plan and appointing a Rehabilitation Receiver.

Petitioner alleges that it is engaged in the business of real estate development; that petitioner likewise develops subdivisions and operates resort facilities and dormitories; that it started its operation in 1984; that towards the end of the construction period in 1997, the unforeseen economic disaster hit Asia; that Philippine peso devaluation and high interest rates destabilized the whole Philippine business environment which caused the petitioner to suffer from (a) paying interest rate at a very high rate; (b) law occupancy rate due to the reservation of business establishments in expansion due to economic crisis; (c) aborted transactions and unrealized sales; d) failure to collect from debtors on time and (e) bad business climate and peace and order in the Philippines; that as a result of the crisis, the loan obligation ballooned because of high interest rate; that out of the consolidated current loan obligation in the amount of P20,859,129.00, in which P6,844,079.00 was from interest charges; that the original loan is only P14,074,701.00 but petitioner has also issued six (6) checks to its creditor bank in payment of its obligation; that as a consequence, the management of the petitioner foresee its inability to meet the immediate obligations as they fall due on the agreed schedule as a result of which complications and problems would definitely arise that would impair and affect the operation of the petitioner and its effort to rehabilitate its business; that Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. have already initiated foreclosure proceedings against petitioner; that if the operation of the petitioner would be hampered and affected by the consequential moves of the its creditors who are not paid on time, it would result in a more difficult process for the settlement of those obligations already maturing and which would render impossible the payment of all other existing obligations with the government, creditor banks and other private persons or corporations; and that despite the foregoing, the management of the petitioner still foresee a very good future ahead if only petitioner will be given a "breathing spell" from its immediate obligations.

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, a STAY ORDER is hereby issued pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation as follows:

(a) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor, including the Petition for Issuance of Writ of Possession of Real Properties filed by Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and docketed as LRC Case No. 2128-02 before this Court;

(b) Prohibiting the petitioner from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of its business;

(c) Prohibiting the petitioner from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of the filing of this petition;

(d) Prohibiting the petitioner's supplier of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the petitioner makes payments of the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this stay order;

(e) Directing the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this stay order.

Mr. Villamor Hilario Aguilar, Owner/General Manager of V.H. Aguilar Design & Construction is hereby appointed as Rehabilitation Receiver and is hereby directed to assume his position as such upon the taking of an oath before the Branch Clerk of this Court and after posting of a bond in the amount of P1,000,000.00 executed in favor of petitioner Town and Country Enterprises, Inc. to guarantee the faithful discharge of his duties as Rehabilitation Receiver and the Orders of this Court.

The petitioner is hereby directed to publish this Stay Order in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks.

All creditors and all interested parties, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, are hereby directed to file and serve on the petitioner, Town and Country Enterprises, Inc., their verified comment on or opposition to this petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing. Failure of the creditors and all interested parties, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, to file their verified comment on or opposition will bar them from participating in this proceedings.

Within such time as to enable them to file their verified comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare them for the initial hearing of his case, all creditors and all interested parties, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, are hereby directed to secure from this Court copies of the petition and its annexes.

Finally, the initial hearing of this case is hereby set on November 26, 2002 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning.

SO ORDERED.

Imus, Cavite, October 8, 2002.

(Sgd.) NORBERTO J. QUISUMBING, JR.
Judge

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 25, 2002)

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

HAMPDEN Division
Docket No. 02A0090AC1

In the Matter Of WILLIAM ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, minor of SPRINGFIELD
In the Country of HAMPDEN

CITATION

M G L. c. 210,s6

To DANILO ESCOLANO of QUEZON CITY in the PHILIPPINES, and/or persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Social Services of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by WILLIE MILES JOHNSON of SPRINGFIELD in the Country of HAMPDEN and MARIA THERESA JOHNSON of SPRINGFIELD in the County of HAMPDEN praying for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ JOHNSON.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT SPRINGFIELD ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON (10:00 AM) ON NOVEMBER 22, 2002).

WITNESS, HON. DAVID G. SACKS, ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at SPRINGFIELD this day, September 4, 2002.

Register of Probate

(PDI--Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 2002)

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ACCRA INVESTMENTS CORPORATION
announce with deep sorrow the demise of our beloved
CHAIRMAN

MANUEL G. ABELLO

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on the 22nd day of October at the age of 68.

We, together with his bereaved family, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park.

Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, 26th of October 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio.

"Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Romans 8:38-39)

Romans 6:5

"For if we have grown into union with HIM through a death like HIS, we shall also be united with HIM in the resurrection."

The Social Security Commission, the Officers and Employees of the Social Security System wish to express their deepest condolence and sympathy to the family of:

ATTY. OSCAR A. TANTINGCO

Department Head,
Anti-Fraud Department
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

who peacefully joined our Creator on October 23, 2002 at the age of 58.

We request friends and readers to pray for his homecoming with our LORD.

His remains lie in state at his residence at No. **289 Padilla Road, Plaridel, Bulacan**.

Interment will be announced later.

COL OSCAR A TANTINGCO

0-5499 PA (Ret)
PMA Class 1969

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 23, 2002.

His bereaved wife **Marian**; children **Michelle, Carl Michael, Jeffrey Ryan, Rosabelle** and **Rachel Ann**; parents **Vicente** and **Dolores Margarita** (†); sisters **Elsie** and **Zenaida**; brother **Alfonso** and the Members of PMA Class 1969 request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Plaridel, Bulacan. Mass will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, October 28, 2002 at the St. James the Apostle Parish Church.

Interment will follow at the St. James Memorial, Plaridel, Bulacan.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

P/SSupt ARNULFO NOBLES ESPIRITU

wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you, our friends near and far, who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of sorrow.

JOSE GIL LAZARO

of Iloilo City and Bicutan, Taguig

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 22, 2002 at the age of 86.

He is survived by his wife **Francisca**; children and spouses **Francisco & Sonia**, **Carlos & Lota**, **Lynn & Roy**; grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz (Inside Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 27, 2002, at the Heritage Memorial Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For donations to her favorite charities and expressed love, concern and support...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.
From the family of the late

Go Chiao Tee Vda. de Yao

(February 01, 1912 - October 10, 2002)

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We, the family of the late
ROSARIO R. GARCIA
"Charito"
wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends, and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered Masses and prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

JOSE ALABASTRO CHAVEZ

of Pili, Camarines Sur

Died last September 25, 2002
at Brgy. Loctugan, Roxas City

His bereaved wife **Juling Chavez** and children **Lito, Jim, Jof & John.**

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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VPI-101	No. 4 Crestline Road, Blue Ridge Subd., Quezon City	835.5 sq.m² residential lot (TCT No. T-209899) with building and improvements	P 11,863,700.00
LDA-123-a	No. 72 Apple St., Km. 18, Maywood Village II, Parañaque City	340 sq.m² residential-industrial lot (TCT No. T-146227) with building and improvements	P 5,746,100.00
BATANGAS			
2 LAO 09	Bo. Talaibon, Ibaan	5,000 sq.m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-111244) with building and improvements	P 12,332,200.00
LAGUNA			
CST-8	Dita Road, Brgy. Biñan, Pagsanjan	1,416 sq.m² residential lot (TCT No. T-177760) with building	P 3,446,000.00
MINDORO OCCIDENTAL			
LJG-155	Poblacion, Abra de Ilog	13,301 sq.m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-21662)	P 1,326,000.00
QUIRINO			
LJG-125-a	Bgy. Villamor, Cabarroguis	73,344 m² agro-industrial lots (lot nos. 1, 2, & 3; TCT No. T-19).	P 1,877,400.00
RIZAL			
VAB-76	No. 7 Darius St., Kingsville Subd., Mayamot, Antipolo City	232 sq.m² residential lot (TCT No. T-399193) with building and improvements	P 1,161,100.00

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818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code No. 2 LAO 09; and
(043) 288-4399 or 818-9511 loc. 1435 (c/o Cynthia) for Code No. CST-8.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI -- October 25, 2002)

SAUDI ARABIA FREE RECRUITMENT

Zamel & Turbag Consulting Engineers, (POEA Accre. No. 57038) a premier design and engineering consultancy organization in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia, is in urgent need of qualified and experienced engineering personnel for its various requirements as specified herein:

A) **Construction Management Personnel For 230KV Transmission Lines & Substations Contract In Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia**
Responsibilities include reviews of design, specifications, general sub-stations and transmission lines engineering work and construction procedures for use on the project.
PROJECT MANAGER (Min. 20 yrs. exp.) / **PROJECT ENGINEERS** (15 yrs.) / **COST & SCHEDULING ENGINEER** (10 yrs.) / **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS** (12 yrs.) / **CIVIL ENGINEERS** (12 yrs.) / **MECHANICAL ENGINEER** (12 yrs.) / **ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS** (10 yrs.) / **CIVIL INSPECTORS** (10 yrs.) / **SAFETY ENGINEER** (10 yrs.) / **MATERIAL INSPECTOR** (10 yrs.)

B) **QA/QC Manager For Design / Engineering Consultancy Office (In-house)**
Engineering graduate with a min. of 15 yrs. Total work exp. out of which 10 yrs. should have been in QA/QC areas comprising formulation and implementation of Quality Systems amongst various engineering departments of a multi-discipline design and engineering consulting office of repute. The incumbent shall be capable of organizing, training and personally monitoring internal audit programs & conducting quality checks in conformity with Saudi Aramco requirements for engineering projects in the oil & gas / petrochemical sectors besides having an IRCA Lead Auditor certificate & a Middle East exposure.

C) Technical Workforce of Maint. Engineers & Planners For an Integrated Steel Plant
Following manpower comprising of qualified graduate engineers with a minimum of 8 yrs. exp. out of which at least 5 yrs. should have been in an integrated steel plant maintenance and support activities in production sections involving facilities such as - DRI (Midrex / HYL Process) / Steel Plant (Electric Arc Furnace / Ladle Furnace / Continuous Casting Casters) / Rolling Mill (Reinforcing Bar /Wire Rod / Light Sections) / Hot Strip Mill / Cold Rolling Mill.
Required personnel for a 48-months contract would be:
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS / ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS / PROCESS ENGINEERS / MAINTENANCE PLANNERS (MECH.) / MAINTENANCE PLANNERS (ELECT.) / PROCESS CONTROL / AUTOMATION ENGINEERS/ HYDRAULIC ENGINEERS.

D) **Senior Design Engineers In Piping / Electrical / Process / Instrumentation**
Engineering graduates with relevant design and supervisory experience, high level of technical knowledge to guide design personnel and equally well versed in applicable design standards and calculations connected with high technology projects in the oil & gas, petrochemical, refinery, power, industrial and infrastructure sectors.

E) Materials Engineers
Mechanical / Electrical engineers with a minimum of 10 years relevant procurement and supervisory experience, a high level of technical knowledge to work in a design office environment and equally well versed in the preparation of equipment and materials specifications from drawings, developing enquiry documents, bid evaluations, purchase recommendations, procurement, vendor documents review, expediting inspections, etc. Experience on Saudi Aramco projects is required.

Qualifying candidates shall furnish their detailed resumes including copies of qualification and work experience certificates, passport, recent photographs etc. to:

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Trade & Industry
Board of Investments
Makati City, Philippines

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that the application of **FEEDWORLD, INC.** with office address at Edsan Farm, Manibaug Paralaya, Porac, Pampanga for registration with the Board of Investments under Book 1 of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as Expanding Producer of Aqua Feeds at a capacity of 15,300 Metric Tons per year with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on October 16, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from date of this publication.

Issued this 16th day of October 2002

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 25, 2002)

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Please bring:
Typewritten Resumé and Original Documents (CGFNS Certificate, TOEFL, TSE, ICHP) College Diploma, High School Diploma, Birth Certificate, Marriage Contract if married, Transcript of Records, Related Learning Experience, PRC Certificate, Board Rating, PRC ID., 6 pcs. Passport size picture and Employment Certificate with area of exposure.

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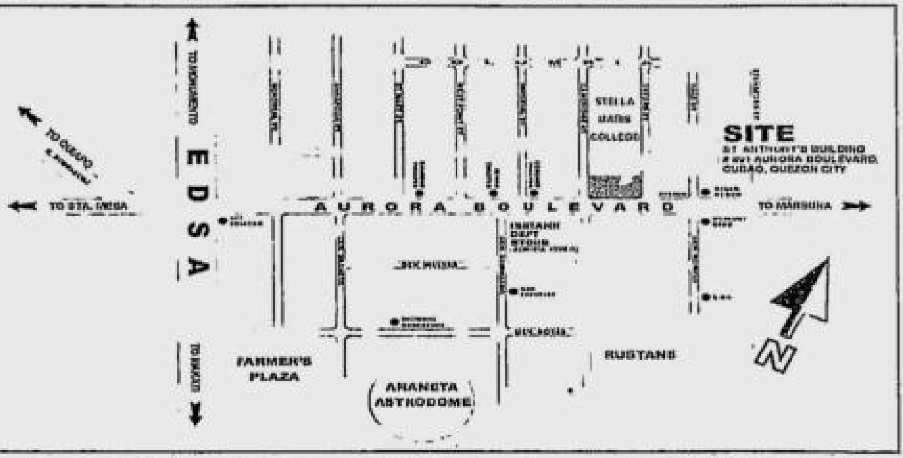

NOTICE TO MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS OF EASYCALL COMMUNICATIONS PHILS. INC.

RE : Subscription Rights Offering (SRO) for 3,358,267 Common Shares with 2,583,283 Free Detachable Stock Warrants

Please be advised that in a resolution adopted at its meeting of October 22, 2001 and ratified by the stockholders in its meeting of November 15, 2001, the Board of Directors authorized the issuance of 3,358,267 common shares (the "Offer Shares") out of the authorized but unissued and unsubscribed capital stock of EasyCall Communications Philippines, Inc. (the "Company") as well as 2,583,283 detachable warrants (the "Warrants") to subscribe to the Company's common shares. Each Subscriber is entitled to One (1) Offer Share for every 1.88158 shares held at a subscription price of P 1.00 per share and each Offer Share shall have an accompanying 0.76923 detachable warrant, free of charge, entitling the warrant holder to subscribe to one common share per warrant at the exercise price of P1.15 per share, within three (3) years from date of issuance of the warrants. Both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange have respectively approved the issuance and listing of the Offer Shares and Warrants.

October 16, 2002 has been fixed as the record date to determine the stockholders entitled to subscribe to the said shares. The Offer period is ten (10) trading days from October 23, 2002 to not later than 12:00 noon of November 6, 2002. Full payment of the amount subscribed must be made upon subscription. Check payments should be payable to EasyCall Communications Phils., Inc. and crossed "For account of Payee Only".

You have been sent individual letters inviting to subscribe to the SRO and should you exercise your right, you must accomplish and return the Subscription Application (SA) to the address indicated therein on or before November 6, 2002, together with the additional documentary requirements in the appropriate case, and the full payment subject to the terms and conditions appearing therein. The SA shall be irrevocable and once received and accepted, may not be withdrawn by the applicant. On the other hand, failure to return the SA form with the full payment and complete documentary requirements on or before November 6, 2002 at 12:00 noon shall constitute conclusive evidence of your waiver of subscription rights under this offering.

You may refer to the Stock Rights Offering Prospectus for additional details on the offering. Copies of the SRO Prospectus may be obtained at the Company's principal office. If you have any questions on the foregoing, you may contact the Company's Chief Finance Controller, Mr. Leon H. Dy at telephone number 533-8001 local 6500.

(Sgd.) MODESTO N. CERVANTES
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BusinessFriday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

BUSINESSMEN JUST THINK OF WORK

Women think of both business and family

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor

ENTREPRENEURSHIP training for women takes into account gender-related barriers and problems faced by females business.

These include:

1. Multiple roles. It is women who have to carry out the tricky balancing act between commitment to the family and demands of work/business. Some studies show a positive correlation between business success and marital failure.

2. Failure to grow their business. Related to multiple roles, women are reluctant to grow in business, preferring the ease and simplicity of a business operation employing a few workers and producing one or two products and serving a narrow market. With their manifold responsibilities, they are afraid of the demands and responsibilities of growth.

3. Lack of credibility. Male entrepreneurs automatically enjoy credibility. Women have to prove their competence and sincerity before they are taken seriously. Women also find it harder to get accepted in leadership and management roles.

4. Social barriers. Related to credibility problems, women are constrained when dealing and interacting with male employees, suppliers and business associates. Socializing, which often promotes business negotiations and networking, can be a problem to women.

5. Narrow view of the competition. It has been observed that women tend to have a limited view of the competition. They tend to perceive the market as local rather than global. They do business with his parochial mindset even as the rest of the world has turned global in terms of marketing, product design and business cooperation.

Helping other women

These and other problems of women entrepreneurs will be among the topics to be tackled in the forthcoming "Developing and Implementing Entrepreneurship Development Programs for Women" of the UP ISSI.

The program is for entrepreneurship trainers and development workers. It is also recommended for women entrepreneurs who would like to help other women start their own business.

Today, training is recognized as one important intervention in harnessing women power in enterprise development.

Take the case of the women from Negros.

When the history of Negros' transformation from sugar-dependent economy to world-class craft center shall have been fully documented, as it eventually should, a chapter should surely be devoted to the heroics of a group of housewives who started it all. These were the women who turned their backs on sheltered lives in affluent homes to do something decisive for the province's displaced farmers.

'Save Negros'

The year was 1984, two years into the sugar crisis. Already, the "Save Negros Campaign" was in progress nationwide. In Negros itself, the men were deep into talks on what they could do to stave off hunger especially among farm people.

Gigi Mondonedo Campos recalls the night her husband Normal came from a dialogue with friends at the Negros Business forum. He told Gigi that some of the men, including former Gov. Bitay Lacson, wanted the wives to join the next meeting. Many did.

In the moving presentation held at the residence of Lito Cosculuela, the women were asked: "What can you do?"

Their first response was to organize feeding brigades and medical task forces for the neediest. Soon, however, it became apparent that much more had to be done.

So the women did more.

Today, Gigi employs 25 workers and subcontracts production to some 400 homeworkers, mostly women, in practically all towns of Negros. Her Reeds and Weeds produces pyrex holders of all sizes and shapes, coasters, trays, hot mats, canisters and placemats made of pandan reeds accessorized with ceramic and terracotta handles and beads. 85 to 90 percent of her product is sold in Spain, Italy, France, Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States.

Milflores

Gigi is only one of the many women who have harnessed their entrepreneurial drive to provide jobs and incomes to the Negrense farm workers affected by the crisis.

Cynthia Capay Flores put up Milflores Fine Crafts which produces unique and attractive gift items like picture frames, trays, jewelry boxes, plates and laminated table tops for the international market using indigenous materials like abalone shells, coco shells, coco wood, mahogany pods and banana leaves. Like Gigi, Cynthia has provided livelihood to hundreds of Negros women.

Suzette is another successful Negrense woman in handicraft. This busy lady founded Heirlooms Pacifica, which produces and exports crocheted ornaments. She also manages West Negros College and administers Leodegario Agustin Memorial Hospital.

Gigi, Cynthia and Suzette are members of the Association of Negros Producers (ANP), one of the most dynamic producers' group in the country.

ANP members provide jobs and livelihood opportunities, utilize abundant natural resources, make waves in fastidious markets abroad, and generate dollars for the country's treasury.

These women were able to take up entrepreneurship because they have the motivation and the resources. More importantly, they received entrepreneurship training.

Seminars

Gigi and Cynthia both joined the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) seminar on "export opportunities—for housewives only." When they planed in from Bacolod to Manila, they were surprised to be in the same room with 12 other women from Negros.

"We did not plan on attending together, we did not even talk about it in Bacolod, but the same motivations brought us together."

(For info on training programs, call 926-6316 and 928-7076 to 79.)

Making people pay for a 'perfect' smile

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

THE PROLIFERATION of dermatological clinics, spas, weight management centers, beauty salons and even plastic surgery clinics point to one thing—there is a huge market for vanity products among Filipinos who want to look their best.

And as the Filipino population grows at about 2 percent a year—one of the fastest in the region—the market would likely continue growing despite these difficult times.

This partly explains the decision of Dent Quest Inc., headed by US-trained oral surgeon Dr. Steve Mark Gan, to put up the Perfect Smile Dental Laser Whitening Salon early this year.

The teeth whitening salon in Glorietta 2, Makati, targets those who believe that having a set of pearly white teeth would help them go far in their specific fields.

A focused market research conducted for Perfect Smile showed that the potential market are in their 30s, likely to have families and their business and social situation influence them to go for teeth whitening.

The market research also showed that many of those who have already gone for laser dental whitening services are very much concerned about aging.

These are men and women who wanted to reverse or at least stall the aging process, which is reflected in their teeth.

Gan explains that the naturally white color of our teeth begin to fade away as we grow older, especially after hitting 30 years.

The teeth gradually lose their natural ivory color because the internal part of the tooth, called the dentin, darkens and starts to show through the enamel or the outer cover of the tooth.

The process is accelerated by staining factors like smoking, coffee and alcohol consumption.

The market for dental laser whitening also surprisingly included top-level executives.

Some of these executives surveyed under the market research said they would want the service to enhance business dealings.

They felt that having a good set of teeth reflect the way they conduct business, much in the same way as a neatly pressed suit or well-shined shoes can.

And then there are the models, actors and entertainers who live on the way they look, and white teeth can make them stand out from the rest.

Laser dental whitening, however, is still a new concept in the Philippines, thus, it has introduced itself in the market through celebrity endorsements or testimonies.

One of its first activities was the sponsorship of the Fashion Week 2002 last April.

Top models from agency CalCarrie had their teeth whitened at the salon as they got ready for the Fashion Week events.

Perfect Smile followed it up by getting endorsements from people, in a bid to get immediate recall for its services.

Gan brought the laser whitening system from the US where the procedure is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

It is an alternative to the current whitening system which uses bleaching gells.

Under the system, teeth are first cleaned and repaired, then a specialized whitening solution is applied to the teeth.

The solution is activated by a scanning laser, which agitates the solution, causing it to dissolve stains and discoloration without affecting the enamel.

Perfect Smile claims that the system can take decades off the color of the teeth, as long as you can spare between 90 minutes and three hours for the treatment on the first day and 90 minutes for the second day, if required, and about P25,000 for the treatment.

McDonald's tests new formula

OAK BROOK, Illinois—Fast-food giant McDonald's Corp. said on Tuesday it opened a new multi-concept "McDonald's 3'n1" restaurant, its latest bid to break tradition with its regular hamburger outlets and develop new ways to drive up US sales.

The test restaurant, housed under the roof of a regular McDonald's, opened a week ago in Lincoln, Nebraska. It offers a traditional McDonald's menu as well as a menu for hot-and-cold sandwiches and platter offerings, and one for ice cream and bakery items, Jack Greenberg, the company's chief executive, told investors.

In its first week of operation, the restaurant generated more than $70,000 in sales, Greenberg said.

The new restaurant was designed to cater to adult and family-eating occasions, McDonald's said in press materials.

It offers table service and allows customers to order from a special red phone at their table. The restaurant also features a take-out area for ordering and pick-up. Customers can also phone their orders in advance.

In addition to regular McDonald's fare like Big Mac and Quarter Pounder hamburgers, the menu includes items like New York Reuben sandwiches, Chicken Parmigiana, Meatloaf, carrot cake, ice cream sundaes and cinnamon rolls. *Reuters*

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Exec gave up corporate life to turn to bees

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SILANG, Cavite—Leaving behind the stress-filled and highly competitive corporate world, Joel Magsaysay settled into the extreme opposite of his past life. And he made it big.

Combining his keen business acumen and passion for nature's most productive workers, he went into beekeeping, and is now the biggest in the country. He exports tons of honey to Tokyo, Japan while wife Violaine manufactures soap, medicine, and candles from bee products.

Twenty-two years ago, Joel was chief executive officer of an international fastfood chain, living a lifestyle that most of his colleagues in Makati city envied.

An industrial management engineering graduate of De La Salle University, he was initially providing multinationals with business planning, feasibility studies, and systems design expertise.

At 26 he became a top official of a fastfood chain while teaching at the Ateneo Center for Continuing Education Graduate School.

Weekends found him riding his motorbike or surfing at Nasugbu.

Then he shocked his friends when he quit his job and decided to live in his family's 7-hectare farm in Silang, Cavite, which was at that time was something like a forest. He left his life of comfort and live in a place with no electricity, telephone, and a nightlife.

Big mistake?

While colleagues thought he made a mistake, to Joel, the decision was leaving the rat race and taking a short cut to the finish line.

"Most corporate executives have this plan: work all their lives, accumulate wealth, and then when they have saved enough and grown old, they would retire and go back to provinces to do some farming and enjoy the gifts of nature until their last days," Joel says. "But why would you do all the that, lose too much time just to go back to farming when you can get out of the race and go to farming while you're still young?" he says. "That's exactly what I did. And I now live in paradise with my family. What more can you ask for?"

Today, Joel is one of the country's leading apiculturist (beekeeper), owning the country's most diversified apiaries, producing the full range of bee products and marketing them in both domestic and export markets.

He and his wife, Violaine, a former Philippine Air Lines flight stewardess, own and run Ilog Maria, a fully commercial honeybee operation producing honey to soaps and shampoos.

King of the bees

Joel's fascination with bees started when he would surf at Nasugbu and he was consuming imported honeybee pollen products.

The honeybee products, which came from France, cost too much, and he wanted the real pollen, not the processed products.

His search in the beekeepers' guide led him to Ian Aranza, one of only two beekeepers in the country, who also happened to be one of his father's godsons.

"When I discovered Ian's hobby, we immediately went down to discuss business," Joel says, "and I asked him to teach me how to be a beekeeper."

In December 1985, the country's political turmoil was taking its toll on the Magsaysay family. The entire family met to discuss their plans in case a civil war broke out.

The Magsaysays identified the 7-hectare land in Barangay Lalaan 1, in Silang, Cavite, for the family's possible retreat but nobody among Joel's siblings would take the responsibility of developing the property.

Since he was into beekeeping, he volunteered to develop the 7-hectare forest.

Joel sold his motorbike to buy a hand tractor that he needed to develop the property.

He got rid of all the weeds and turned the property into a fully productive and inter-cropped farm with coffee, black pepper, fruit trees, coconuts, bamboo and hardwood trees like narra, gemelina and mahogany.

JOEL's chances of finding a wife who loved bees was one in a million. But he found her in Violaine.

As he neared his 30th birthday, Joel computed the chances of his finding a wife who has the same passion for bees was one in a million. But he was lucky.

"My wife Violaine has kept bees for about 14 years. When I met her, she had already started keeping one colony," Joel said, "We got married seven months after we met and immediately moved nine colonies in our old bee trailer into the farm. What happened next was indeed a honeymoon!"

Violaine worked as an international flight stewardess for four years at the Philippine Air Lines.

When she had saved enough, she resigned from her job, bought a farm, cultured prawns and kept bees in Dolores, Quezon.

When she married Joel, she moved to the farm in Silang.

ILOG Maria sells stuff from virgin forest honey to health soaps and candles.

Ilog Maria

The farm, powered by solar energy, was the perfect place to start a family and extend the business. For water, they tapped the aquifer flowing beneath the farmhouse.

"Our water is so clean; we can bottle it right out of the tap and sell it. We use this mineral water for drinking and in our lab for honey wine, honey cider vinegar, health soaps and our natural shampoo," Violaine says.

They named the farm Ilog Maria.

The beekeeping business flourished. The nine bee colonies they started now expanded to 800 and is still growing.

Beekeeping equipment, which costs a fortune abroad, was not a problem with the Magsaysays as the business grew bigger.

"We now make our own equipment," Violaine said," We have a team of technical experts who have been working with us to develop our honey extractors and other machines necessary for the business at a much lower cost."

Export

The farm is surrounded by pineapple, mango, citrus, coffee, banana, coconut and citrus plantation—provided flowers for the bees and flavors for the honey.

In 1996, together with their four children, they left their farmhouse to transfer to the newly constructed three-story building which became their new home. The farmhouse is now a storage house.

Their new home has Violaine's laboratory in the basement floor, the showroom on the ground floor and family rooms in the second and third floors.

The top floor of the building has the computers and satellite dish that that enable Joel to update the ilogmaria.com, the farm's website.

The beekeeping business has no wastage. As they exported the honey, the remaining beeswax is turned into candles and soaps.

Straight from the beehive, they got virgin honey, bee pollen, propolis gold, royal jelly, honey cider vinegar, refined beeswax, and whole dried bee venom.

In Violaine's laboratory, she makes preparations from honey such as propolis mist, propolis throat and breath spray, and propolis ointment.

Although Violaine is not a chemist, she was able to formulate health soaps and shampoos using their product as the base.

"Joel and I did so much research in soap making," Violaine said, "And then, I experimented. After about a thousand trials and errors, we were able to create the perfect health soaps and shampoos that are now exported worldwide."

Showroom

At the Ilog Maria showroom, which doubles as the store, Violaine's products—all from her original formulation—are on display such as soaps, honey-glycerin bar with sampaguita oil, and individuals buy them by the dozen.

Finding the essential oils necessary in soap making is not a problem, according to Joel.

At the back of the building is a thriving herb garden, where Joel and a childhood friend built a watering facility that employs the forest-mist system, imitating the rain-forest fog that helps in the propagation of herbs where they get their essential oils.

Molded and rolled beeswax candles have also been bestsellers for visitors and collectors who frequent Ilog Maria.

Joel has trained hundreds of hobbyists, government and nongovernment organizations that wanted to learn about beekeeping.

Even international organizations such as Plan International, US Peace Corps, USAID, Japan Wildlife Research Center, Save the Children Foundation, International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, Philippine-Australia Agritech, and the Israel Ministry of Agriculture Extension Service for Apiculture have sought his expertise on beekeeping.

Shangri-la

Joel and Violaine have raised their four children who have inherited their passion for nature and knack for business.

When the couple joins fairs and exhibitions, the children, age 5 to 13, manage the store and the farm, and even prepares the accounts for the day.

"The kids go to local schools here that have the same educational system as the best in Manila," Joel said, "and at their young age, they understand the nature of the business and can manage it."

For Joel, his biggest decision to leave the corporate world was also his life's best decision.

"If I didn't come here and become an apiculturist, I could have been a company president now. But will I be as happy as I am now? That's the biggest question that will be answered by a big NO,"

Joel said, "I've found my Shangri-la. What more can I ask for?"

Services vs royalties revisited

TAX-FILES

By Emmanuel C. Alcantara
SGV & Co.

ONE of the interesting tax issues under our present tax system is determining of the proper tax treatment of payments for services rendered by a non-resident foreign corporation.

A "nonresident foreign corporation" is a foreign corporation that is not engaged in trade or business in the Philippines.

Under our present tax system, these payments may either be treated as business profits/service fees or as royalties. This distinction is significant especially when the nonresident foreign corporation is covered by a tax treaty because, subject to certain conditions under the tax treaty, business profits/service fees may be exempt from local tax, while royalties are generally subject to Philippine tax.

Service fees and royalty

In the case of Philippine Refining Company (PRC) vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue (CIR), dated Jan. 15, 1986, the Court of Tax Appeals had to distinguish between service fees and royalty payments.

One must determine whether the payee has proprietary interest in the property giving rise to the income.

If the payee has none, then the payments are treated as business profits/services fees. On the other hand, payments are treated as royalties if the payee has proprietary interest.

Moreover, the BIR has consistently treated income payments as royalties when the payee retains proprietary interest. The BIR held that "to be considered royalties, there must be a transfer into the Philippines of technology, equipment or other property where the payee has proprietary interest."

Royalties mean payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematographic films and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

Note that "royalties" was defined to include "payments of any kind received as a consideration for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience."

Know-how

According to the commentaries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the information refers to the concept of "know-how."

The definition of know-how, which has been adopted by the the OECD, is "all the undivulged technical information, whether capable of being patented or not, that is necessary for the industrial reproduction of a product or process, directly and under the same conditions; inasmuch as it is derived from experience, know-how represents what a manufacturer cannot know from mere examination of the product and mere knowledge of the progress of technique."

In a know-how contract, one of the parties agrees to impart to the other, so that the transferee can use them for his own account, the transferor's special knowledge and experience which remain unrevealed to the public. This type of contract thus differs from contracts for the provision of services, in which one of the parties undertakes to use the customary skills of his calling to execute work himself for the other party.

Thus, payments obtained as consideration for after-sales service, for services rendered by a seller to the purchaser under a guarantee, for pure technical assistance, or for an opinion given by an engineer, an advocate or an accountant, do not constitute royalties.

It is important to determine whether the payments are in the nature of compensation for services, or are royalties because the tax implications are different.

Income tax

A. If treated as business profits/service fees

If the services were performed in the Philippines by a non-resident foreign corporation not covered by a tax treaty, the payments or fees shall be subject to a final income tax of 32 percent based on gross business profits/service fees (no deductions allowed).

If the services were performed in the Philippines by a nonresident foreign corporation covered by a tax treaty, the taxability of such business profits/service fees would depend on whether such nonresident foreign corporation has a permanent establishment in the Philippines.

If the nonresident foreign corporation has a PE in the Philippines, it shall be subject to a tax rate of 32 percent based on taxable income.

If it has NO PE in the Philippines, the business profits/service fees shall not be subject to any income tax in the Philippines.

B. If treated as royalties

If the services were performed by a nonresident foreign corporation not covered by a tax treaty, whether in the Philippines or abroad, it is subject to a final income tax of 32 percent based on gross payments.

If the nonresident foreign corporation is covered by a tax treaty, and it has no PE in the Philippines, the payments will then be subject to the tax rate provided under the tax treaty.

On the other hand, if the nonresident corporation has a PE in the Philippines, the royalties will be subject to a final tax of 20 percent to be withheld and remitted by the Philippine payor to the BIR.

Under various tax treaties, a nonresident foreign corporation is considered to have a PE in the Philippines if it has a seat in management, a branch, office, store or other sales outlet, factory, warehouse, mine, quarry, or other place of extraction of natural resources, building site or construction or assembly project or supervisory activities, provided such site, project, or activity goes on for at least 183 days during the given taxable year.

Thus, if the services were performed in the Philippines by a nonresident foreign corporation covered by a tax treaty but the performance of which took less than 183 days and hence does not create a PE, the compensation paid to it will still not be subject to Philippine income tax.

As such, the income derived from the these services shall be considered income from sources outside the Philippines and therefore exempt from income/withholding tax.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

Whether treated as business profits/service fees or as royalties, the income payments to nonresident corporations will be subject to the 10 percent VAT.

If treated as business profits/service fees, these will be subject to the 10 percent VAT if the services are performed in the Philippines. Under Section 108(A) of the Tax Code, the 10 percent VAT is imposed on gross receipts derived from the sale or exchange of services, including the use or lease of properties.

The phrase "sale or exchange of services" means "the performance of all kinds of services in the Philippines for others for a fee, remuneration or consideration."

If treated as royalties, these will be subject to the 10 percent VAT regardless of where the services are performed since the definition of the phrase "sale or exchange of services" under Section 108(A) of the Tax Code includes royalty-type of arrangements such as "the supply of scientific, technical, industrial or commercial knowledge or information" and "the supply of any assistance that is ancillary and subsidiary to and is furnished as a means of enabling the application or enjoyment of xxx any such knowledge or information xxx."

The VAT is an indirect tax and, hence, may be shifted or passed on to the buyer, transferee or lessee of the goods, properties or services who then credits it against his own VAT liability on his own sales.

However, where the seller of the services, including royalty-type of services, is a non-resident foreign corporation, the payor of the fees shall be responsible for the payment of VAT on such fees and/or royalties in behalf of the non-resident foreign corporation by filing a separate VAT declaration/return for this purpose.

Withholding Tax

Whether the income payment is treated as royalties or as business profits/service fees, the payor is obliged to deduct and withhold the income tax and VAT at the above rates at the time an income payment is paid or payable, or the income payment is accrued or recorded as an expense for asset, whichever is applicable, in the payor's books, whichever comes first.

The term "payable" refers to the date the obligation becomes due, demandable or legally enforceable.

In case of VAT withholding, the filing of VAT return (BIR Form 1600) by the payor and the proof of payment shall serve as a sufficient basis for the claim of input tax to be applied against the output tax that maybe due from the payor, if it is a VAT registered taxpayer.

If the payor is a non-VAT registered taxpayer, the passed-on VAT withheld shall form part of the cost of the service purchased or treated as expense, whichever is applicable.

(SGV & Co. will hold a half-day seminar entitle "Avoiding Tax Pitfalls -2 " on Oct. 29, 2002 at the Peninsula Manila Hotel in Makati City For information, please call Babes Capul at 894-8159.)

Insular Life promotes 2 executives

INSULAR Life chair of the board and president Vicente R. Ayllon announced the promotion of Carlos D. Da Silva, to first vice president, seconded to Insular Life Health Care Inc. (I-Care) as president and Ronnie B. Alcantara, to first vice president, seconded to Insular Investment and Trust Corp. (IITC) as president effective last Sept. 1.

Da Silva joined the company in 1971, and rose through the ranks to become vice president. Prior to his being seconded to Insular Life Health Care Inc. as senior vice president and head of marketing operations, he held several key positions at Insular Life, notably head of its salary savings insurance coordinating office.

For several years, he has been a member of the board of trustees of the Association of Health Maintenance Organizations of the Philippines Inc. (Ahmopi), the official trade association of the Philippine HMOs. He is also currently its vice president.

Da Dilva obtained his Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree, major in Management and minor in Economics from the Jose Rizal College. He attended the BMP Managerial Process and Practice and the Top Management Programs at the Asian Institute of Management.

Alcantara joined Insular Life in 1976 and was seconded to IITC in 1996 as senior vice president in charge of finance, money market and IITC subsidiaries.

He is a doctor of Insular Savings Bank, I-Care and Unionbank Currency Brokers Inc. He also serves as treasurer of Filipino Fund Inc. and director and treasurer of the following IITC subsidiaries: Insular Plus Properties Development Corp., IITC Properties Inc. and Insular Property Ventures Inc. This year, he was elected board member of three professional organizations, the Financial Executives of Institute of the Philippines (Finex), Investment House Association of the Philippines (Ihap) and the Philippine Association of Management Accountants (Pama).

Alcantara graduated with a degree in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines-Diliman. He has likewise finished all academic requirements for an MBA degree from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. Alcantara holds a degree as Fellow, Life Management Institute degree from the Life Office Management Association of Georgia.

FCCP ANNUAL BALL

The Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) will be commemorating its 23rd anniversary with an annual ball dedicated to 'FCCP's Celebration of Friendship' on Oct. 25 at the Rizal Ballroom of the Shangri-la Hotel, Makati. Proceeds from this fundraising undertaking will benefit various projects of the FCCP, particularly in support of scholarship grants to talented and deserving artists and audience development for cultural presentations. Members of the steering committee headed by Fortune Ledesma, director for ways and means, met recently to finalize the program of activities.

TRADESHOW EXHIBIT 2002

Richwell Trading Corp. presented its annual Holiday Tradeshow 'The Magical Kingdom of Children' at the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino Sept. 5 and 6. Richwell reached out to different foundations and organizations for children, including Bantay Bata 163 and the Make A Wish Foundation. Kids from these foundations were treated to fun games and theatrical shows, with Garfield cartoons, a Barbie Fashion Show and an excerpt from 'Barbie as Rapunzel' musical play. Shown is the memorandum of agreement between Tina Monzon Palma, chair of Bantay Bata Foundation, and Richwell Trading Corp. Bantay Bata 163 is the beneficiary of the 'Barbie as Raunzel' charity premiere to be held at the Fort Global City Nov. 15.

NESTLE BREAKFAST PROMO IN BACOLOD

A total cash prize of P200,000 was recently given away in Mag-Nestle Almusal Gising Milyonaryo's 4th preliminary draw. Aurora Tayko and Wilfredo R. Seron Jr. took home P100,000 each. Aside from the cash prize, five 7-cu. ft. National Refrigerators and five 21-inch Sony TV sets were also given away to lucky winners. The preliminary draw, which was conducted at the Robinsons Mall in Bacolod, also proved to be a star-studded event with the participation of entertainment personalities Ruby Rodriguez, John Pratts, Heart Evangelista and the Insight Dancers. Also present in the event were Nestle marketing promotions officer Jocelyn Ortiz, Nestle corporate events specialist James Seguerra and Nestle representative Jay Caballero. Shown are Heart Evangelista (left), John Pratts (2nd from right) and Ruby Rodriguez (right) with contestants for the Grocery Relay Game.

BITS Clips

1-day migration seminar

AMERICAN lawyer John L. Smith, a management consultant and personnel contractor from Puyallop and Seattle, Washington, is in Manila to run a one-day US immigration seminar Oct. 26, at Joni's Bakeshop and Restaurant, 823 Arnaiz Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas in Makati. The exercise begins from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for the first batch and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the second batch. Personal interviews on selected applicants will follow after the Q&A portion. The topics will be on specific requirements for immigrants or jobseekers desiring to enter the United States legally in various categories. The seminar would be under the auspices of the J&B Immigration and Placement Services run by Smith and his Filipino partner Roberto "Bobby" S. Bautista, a long-time Seattle resident. Tulong Hanapbuhay Enterprise is helping in the pre-selection of applicants.

Noel Christmas Bazaar

SOMETHING'S coming to town other than Santa Claus. The Noel Christmas Bazaar is set for an eagerly anticipated return to the Manila Polo Club this Oct. 26 and 27. Last year's best booths—Avatar Accessories from Cebu, Kyle's Candles & Crafts, Nui Design Clothing, Home Inspirations, Georgani and Kiss the Fish, are expected to make their reappearance. What distinguishes the Noel Christmas Bazaar from similar events is its service-driven desire to also profit the less fortunate. Proceeds from the affair will reach the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation (BBF), Leukemic Indigent Funds Endowment (LIFE), the Give a Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy project (GAG) of the GMA Foundation, and the Philippine Missions Association.

Toyota Classics proceeds to Mindanao

IN LINE with its commitment to build a better world through the arts, Toyota Motor Corp. intends to donate the entire proceeds of the Toyota Classics 2002 to support the humanitarian assistance program of Tabang Mindanaw III. Tabang Mindanaw III is the 3rd massive program of action aimed at alleviating the hardships of the people in the calamity-stricken land of Mindanao. It is currently focused on providing assistance to the Filipinos displaced from Malaysia. Conducting the Toyota Classics musical performance will be widely acclaimed French conductor Philippe Entremont. Additionally, this year's Toyota Classics will feature solos from Filipino tenor Leodigario B. del Rosario and guitarist Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey. The concert will be held at the Meralco Theater in Ortigas, Pasig on Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the TicketWorld outlets in National Book Store, Robinsons Department Store, Tower Records, and Music Museum.

1073 pass PMA exams

PHILIPPINE Military Academy Superintendent Brig. Gen. Edilberto P. Adan announced the result of the recently concluded PMA entrance exams. Out of the 7,520 applicants who took the PMA exams Sept. 22, only 1,073 (14.27 percent) passed. Among the successful examinees, 134 were females. The PMA entrance exams covers high school algebra and geometry, English grammar and composition and reading comprehension, and special PMA aptitude. It was this year that PMA required applicants to have a high school general average of at least 80 percent. PMA cadets are full government scholars. Upon admission to the Academy April 1, cadets enjoy a four-year complete and quality education no other colleges can offer. They receive pay and allowances while studying. They are guaranteed of a job after graduation. Complete results of the exams are on page 4 of the Oct. 24 issue of the Inquirer.

Yabut appointed Tesda deputy director-general

DR. Santiago M. Yabut Jr. has been appointed deputy director-general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), newsman Danilo P. Cruz reported yesterday.

Yabut, former municipal mayor of Minalin in Pampanga and consultant on local government affairs of Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Macapagal-Arroyo, was unanimously tapped for the post to assist Tesda in the effective implementation of programs towards the upliftment of technical education among overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) most specifically.

A doctor of medicine by profession, Yabut was chosen personally by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the recommendation of the search committee in Malacañang and socio-civic groups in Central Luzon.

Cruz, former public affairs officer of the Department of National Defense during the incumbency of then Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, cited the vital role played by Yabut in the fields of cooperativism and skills development during his six-year (1995-2001) term as Minalin mayor.

Notice of Legal Proceedings

Notice is hereby given that on 17th October 2002 a Restraint Order (HCMP 4221 of 2002) was issued by Mr. Justice Lugar-Mawson in the Hong Kong Court of First Instance under the provisions of Section 15 of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance, Cap 455 of the Laws of Hong Kong. The following persons and companies are named as Respondents to that Order.

Amador Apugnam PASTRANA Philippines passport ZZ017001 Date of birth 4th May 1972.	Respondent 1
Alpha Company Ltd Company No 15011	Respondent 2
Jindell Investment Ltd Company No 367520	Respondent 3
Jupiter Advisory Ltd Company No 407452	Respondent 4
First Pacific Company Ltd Company No 7009	Respondent 5
Systems International Ltd Company No 105043B	Respondent 6
Calimax Enterprises Ltd Company No 407451	Respondent 7
Cyplus Company Ltd Company No 114160B	Respondent 8
Jopio Company Ltd Company No 16592	Respondent 9
Nobuko Investments Ltd Company No 371740	Respondent 10
Prudence International Ltd Company No 16156	Respondent 11
Wains International Company Ltd Company No 391025	Respondent 12
Moneycare International Ltd Company No 407450	Respondent 13
Chamomile International Ltd Company No 741159	Respondent 14
Highstone Investments Ltd Company No 112158B	Respondent 15
Sabre International Ltd Company No 6470	Respondent 16
Vantage International Management Group Inc. Company No 8403	Respondent 17
Union Trading Ltd Company No 15014	Respondent 18
Novelle Investment Partners Ltd (Bahamas) Company No 81563B	Respondent 19
United Resources Asset Management Inc SEC Reg No A200005310	Respondent 20
Allied European Holdings Ltd Company No 8313	Respondent 21

Any person or company who is a Respondent to the above Order, can obtain a copy of the said Order from either Director Jose Tomas C. SYQUIA Head of Compliance and Enforcement of the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, or Detective Senior Inspector David COPE, Organised Crime and Triad Bureau, Hong Kong Police, 22nd Floor, Arsenal House West Wing, Police Headquarters, Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, Hong Hong.

(PDI-Oct. 25, 2002)

Product FILES

Sara Lee launches Nutrimetics skincare line

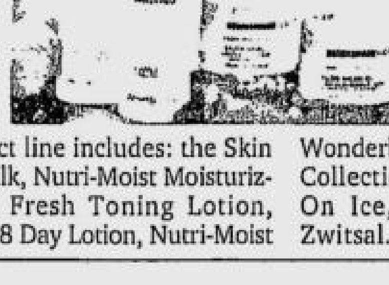
SARA Lee Direct Selling Philippines, one of the country's top direct-selling giants, strengthens its foothold in the local beauty/cosmetics market with the launching of the Nutrimetics Skincare Line.

Nutrimetics started in Australia in 1961 under the direction of Bill and Imelda Roche, whose extraordinary business and marketing savvy led to the brand's eventual worldwide success. The Roches continued to lead Nutrimetics until their retirement in 1997 when their company was acquired by the Sara Lee group of companies.

With the purchase of Nutrimetics in 1997, the Sara Lee group became one of the world's leading direct-selling organizations which has created opportunities for over 250,000 consultants in 12 countries worldwide.

The inspiration for Nutrimetics originated in 1961 in the magical Himalayan valley of the Hunza. There, they discovered a remarkable people who were said to have found the secret to long life and whose skin possessed an extraordinarily youthful appearance. Their secret? The precious oil derived from the apricot kernel. This fantastic discovery led to the creation of one of the first nature-inspired skincare ranges—Nutrimetics.

The Nutrimetics laboratories in Sydney and Sara Lee's Research and Development Centre in the Netherlands are dedicated to identifying new natural ingredients and to finding scientific improvements in skincare and cosmetics.



Each Nutrimetics product is formulated with natural ingredients such as almond meal, rice bran oil, avocado oil, aloe vera, eucalyptus, cornflower, papaya extract and jojoba oil. All products are vegetable-based and do not contain petroleum or animal-derived products.

The newly launched Nutrimetics product line includes: the Skin Clean Cleansing Milk, Nutri-Moist Moisturizing Cream, Skin Fresh Toning Lotion, Specific Care SPF 18 Day Lotion, Nutri-Moist EL Extra Light Moisturizing Cream and the Specific Care Anti-Wrinkle Retinol Serum.

The Nutrimetics Skincare Line is available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines (formerly House of Sara Lee), and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call their hotline number at 810-5402 or e-mail customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

Sara Lee Corp. is a global branded consumer packaged-goods company with approximately $20 billion in annual revenues. Its leading brands worldwide include Hanes, Hanes Herway, Wonderbra, Playtex, Barely There, Champion, L'eggs, Sanex, Zwitsal, Fissan, Ambipur, Kiwi, Douwe Egberts, Dim, Hillshire Farm, Jimmy Dean and Bryan.

In the Philippines, Sara Lee Direct Selling's line of prestigious brands includes Playtex, Wonderbra, Hanes, Hanes Her Way, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS, Versus, Cool Splash and Zwitsal.

BUSINESS

Bank lending down 2% in August

By Clarissa S. Batino

LOANS extended by commercial banks contracted by 2 percent or P28.25 billion in August to P1.376 trillion from the previous year's level as banks remained reluctant to lend due to their huge bad loan accounts, which reached 17.6 percent of their loan portfolio in the same month.

The amount was also lower by 57 percent or P8 billion than the loans extended a month ago. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, however, pointed out that the rate of decline in August was smaller compared with the 2.9-percent year-on-year contraction in July.

The Senate approval last Wednesday of the bill that will provide incentives to asset management companies and its expected enactment into law soon should help banks improve their non-performing loans levels.

The Special Asset Management Companies Act will facilitate the sale of the banking system's bad loans worth about P300 billion and its close to P200 billion in foreclosed assets.

Bank lending remained anemic despite the low interest rates environment, brought about by the BSP's low policy rates. The BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates remained at their decade-lows of 7 percent and 9.25 percent, respectively.

Sources said, however, that banks continued to charge individuals and small businesses double-digit lending rates. Some banks said they had to input into their rates certain "anticipated risks" in providing the loans.

The BSP said demand for loans remained low due to a slump in economic activities, particularly in the manufacturing sector. It noted that this sector was operating at an average capacity utilization of less than 80 percent.

The sectors that managed to improve their credits during the period included financial, real estate, business services (5.6 percent), and the community, social and personal services group (14.2 percent).

The two sectors' combined 42-percent share of the total commercial bank loans was still negated by the continued decline in the borrowing activities of all other groups.

The BSP said recent indicators had showed gradual economic recovery as the volume and value of production indices registered some increases. The car industry, for instance, registered during the month an 8.1-percent increase in sales.

"Moving forward, the improving domestic demand condition amid a low interest rate environment could propel increased demand for loans for productive activities in the coming months," said the central bank.

It's like driving a Ferrari [illegible] he Autobahn.

When the Internet started as a simple network of computers used mainly by scientists, researchers and academics, no one predicted it would turn into a new global medium. The World Wide Web, the most-often accessed part of the Internet, has sites that equal (sometimes, exceed) the broadcast media in terms of production values and visual style, while the contents rival that of found in print.

Plug-ins such as Flash, Shockwave, RealAudio, among others heighten the Internet experience. No wonder everyday, millions of people jump into the so-called Information Superhighway a.k.a the Infobahn, to access things like up-to-the-second news to episode guides of their favorite TV series, walkthroughs of their favorite computer games to more esoteric stuff like Alyssa Milano movie trailers, proof of alien life photos and Styx lyrics. With such a wealth of information available, it's not surprising that this virtual freeway will be jammed. Since, like its real life counterpart, the more users, the more congested it will be. Also, the more flash (pun intended), the heavier the website will be. Which means, if your hook-up to the Web isn't optimal, downloading the site on your PC can be as fun as watching paint dry. In other words, ordinary dial-up connections just don't cut it anymore.

Speed through the infobahn

This is where a PLDT myDSL connection comes in handy. Imagine waiting for 6 hours downloading that rare Pearl Jam audition MP3 using your dial-up, when your sister picks up the phone to use it. Unfortunately for you, murder is still a crime. But if you have myDSL, not only you can download MP3s in a breeze, you can also chat while doing so. All while your little sister is talking on the phone with her friend about her supposedly Josh Hartnett-looking crush. However, with the unlimited time and dedicated time you have online, your brother (or son) will have a difficult time going back to the real world after spending days and nights in virtual worlds like EverQuest or battle.net. Wh [illegible] is, you don't need to instal [illegible] stem to get a dedicated co [illegible] it uses the copper wires [illegible] your telephone. DSL technolo [illegible] Subscriber Line) carries data a [illegible] ency than voice or fax calls, s [illegible] simultaneously be carried in one [illegible] sn't interfere with other telepho [illegible] Caller ID or call waiting. And c [illegible] ble-based systems (essentially [illegible] work where the connection to [illegible] shared), it doesn't fall in perform [illegible] more subscribers connect and do [illegible] security problems arising from p [illegible] ffing.

You'll be hook [illegible]

So if you have a [illegible] myDSL connection, there's no stoppi [illegible] m hosting your own website. If you h [illegible] ganization in school or the communi [illegible] n play your school's victory song [illegible] ming and video audio(skipping [illegible] so 90's). You can immortalize the Mr. Roboto dance number you did in your last reunion in Quicktime video, and upload it in your family's website for everybody's enjoyment. You can also put your library of self-composed MP3s and just hope somebody will download it.

More time to do other things

Since you can surf and call at the same time, you'll shave off hours and surely be spending more time on the Web, not because of the waiting, but because you'll be zipping to and fro inside the digital realm using multiple windows. You can discover more of those obscure websites (or host one using your PC!), as you lose yourself in cyberspace, since there's no time limit, no roadblocks, just a free, unhindered and high-velocity ride in the techie version of the Autobahn. So whatever your business in the Net, it's done in a snap. Which means, you can spend more time with your family and yourself. Ultimately, you'll be living a better, more enriched life, courtesy of PLDT myDSL.

Get PLDT myDSL and save at least P4,500!

With that said, there is no reason for you and your family not to hook up with PLDT myDSL. PLDT's extended offer of free installation and free one-month subscription is too juicy to pass up. That's an easy P4,500 savings at least. All you have to do is be a PLDT post-paid landline subscriber living in a DSL-capable area (a PLDT Tech team will visit your home and determine if your line is DSL-ready). Definitely, it's the best time to connect to the country's premier high-velocity residential broadband internet service - PLDT myDSL. For more info, check out the details below.

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myDSL Hi-Velocity Internet

Promo extension is from October 1-December 31, 2002. Per DTI NCR permit no. 1021. Series of 2002.

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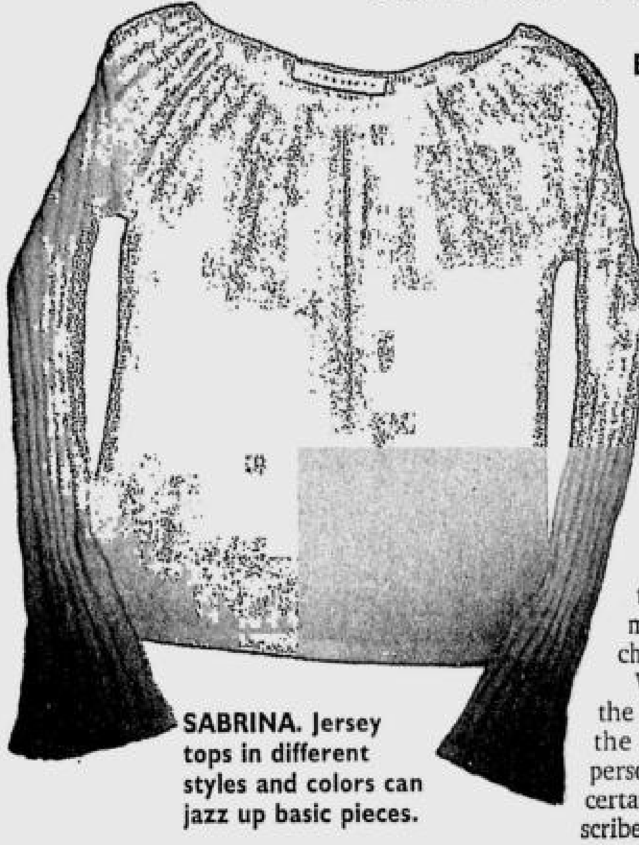
FASHION ADVICE

Color-coding, cruise crisis and wardrobe basics



SABRINA. Jersey tops in different styles and colors can jazz up basic pieces.

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Color is like food for the spirit—plus it's not addictive or fattening.—**Isaac Mizrahi**

I CAN'T determine what colors suit me best. I am dark-skinned like Alessandra de Rossi, maybe even a shade darker. I want to look clean, fresh and radiant all the time. What colors will flatter my complexion? Should I avoid any particular hue?

Your exotic coloring is the envy of countless women the world over. People lie in the sun all day or use tanning beds, in spite of the risk of skin cancer, to achieve your dark skin tone. So, you must highlight this asset through your choice of clothing, makeup and hair color.

When "Color Me Beautiful" came out in the 1970s, it categorized skin coloring into the four seasons. It suggested that each person's skin and hair be complemented by a certain set of colors depending on one's prescribed season.

Winter colors are icy and intense, like black, white and red, and suit those with strong coloring and contrasting hair and skin tones. Summer hues are softer and more muted like dove blue, old rose and plum, and complement those with softer, more consistent coloring. Autumn's palette is earthy and vivid like gold, bronze, dark brown, moss green, and is best suited for those with dark coloring. And spring tones are bright like peach, pink, lemon yellow,

COLOR-CODING/ p.C4

MORENA. Exotic beauties Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez and Izza Gonzales-Agana share their color tips and tricks for dark-skinned Filipinas.

Filipinas should flaunt their exotic color and complement it with the right makeup

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october 16-31.02 grab-the-bag
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Per DTI-NCR permit series of 2002
See ter det ls

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dina bonnevie | gretchen barretto | angel aquino
pinky recto | isabel roces | phoemela baranda
anna shier | amanda griffin | rissa samson
bianca araneta | tricia panlilio cu-unjieng

october 26.02 body of attraction
a one day fitness e ve ie
o the publi
eading exper
body balance rea
venue 2nd leve wall

october 27.02 touch of attraction
a free-for-all, one day makeover workshop. top-notch make-up artists share their secrets with you
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See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3822 Series of 2002.

SMART Simply Amazing!

SHU addicts Angelo Villanueva and Xeng Zulueta in Paolo Raymundo

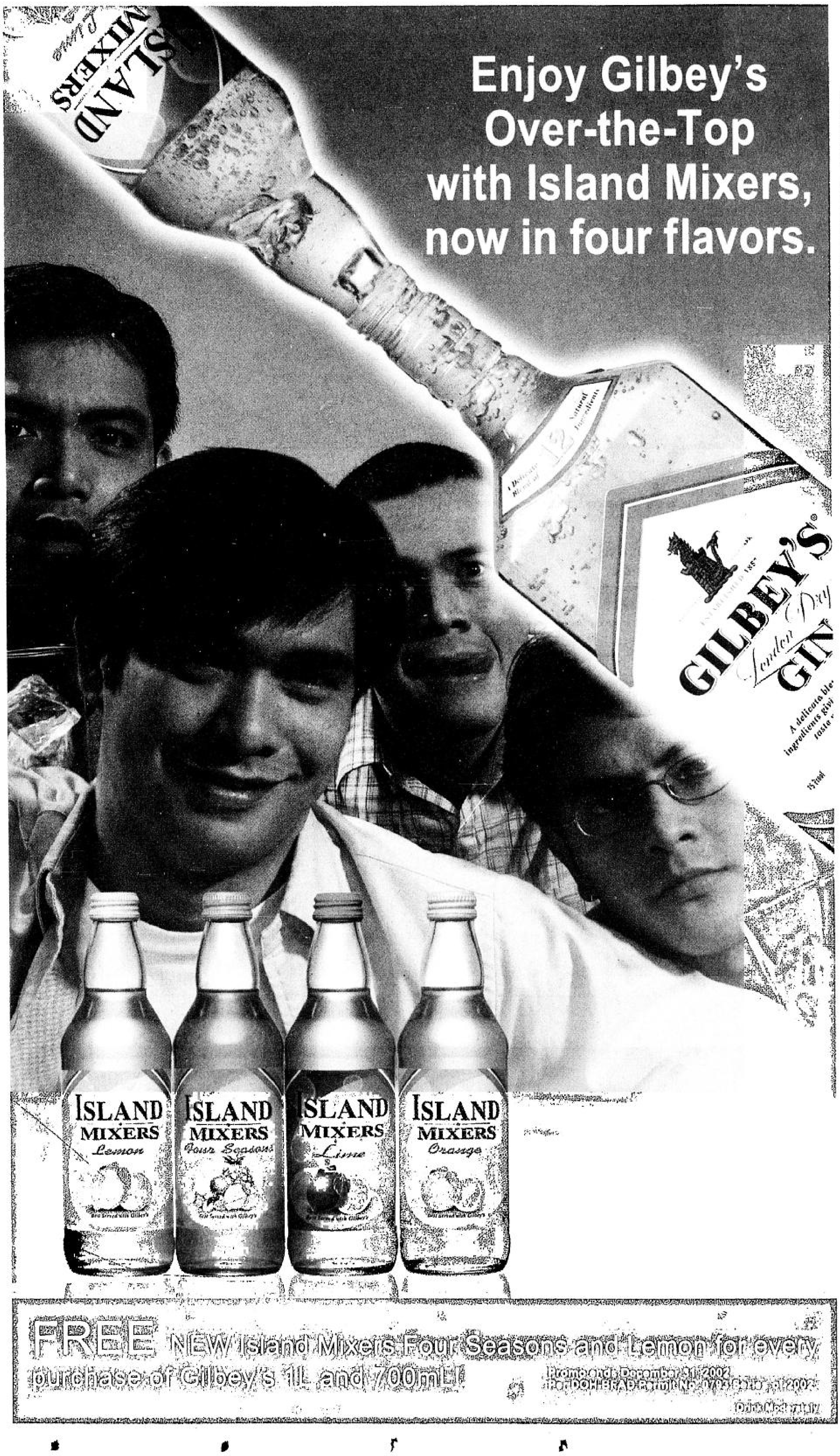
BLACK AND WHITE GLAM. Celine Gabriel and Leica Carpo

PREVIEW PALS. Tracie Anglo and Rorie Carlos

STYLE SET. Dara David in Wink Rhett Eala and Chico

BEAUTY PREVIEW. Isha Andaya and Agoo Bengzon

HOT MOMMAS. Emily Lopez and Mary Ann Tinio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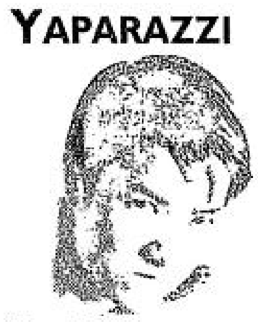
Drink Moderately

Night of Shu addiction

"MINIMALIST avant garde" was inscribed in fine print on the invitation to the most talked-about makeup launch this side of town. If you haven't heard of the Shu Uemura launch, then I don't know which torture basement you have been held in.

YAPARAZZI


Tim Yap

Amid bomb threats and the fickle weather, Shu Uemura shone ever so brightly as it formally opened its counters last Friday night. (My Rustan's source says they've been on the top slot in sales daily since the day they opened.) Yes, there was a bomb in the Rustan's department store all right, but not of the terrorist sort. What was to explode was a plethora of colors more diverse than those of the rainbow.

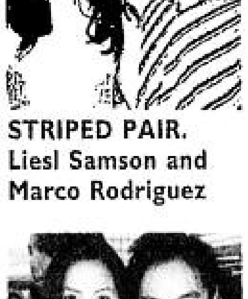
A photo exhibit featuring five of Manila's "it" girls of all time serving as canvases to the country's maquillage masters was revealed by Shu Uemura chief mistress **Tina Tinio**. A live makeup demo by the Shu Uemura artists—**Kakuyasu Uchiide** (who is next in line after Shu Uemura himself) and **Yuji Asano**—from Tokyo was the highlight of the evening.

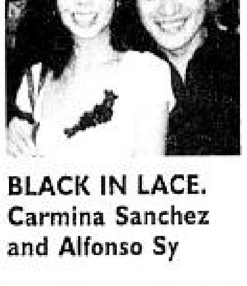
The ribbon cutting—by the Shu principals **Edouard Roche**, L'Oreal's **Paul Henri Duillet**, **Edwina Guiyab** and product manager Tinio—opened the fete. Right after, the guests rushed to the Shu Uemura booth like there was no tomorrow. "Finally, the wait is over," said one ecstatic beauty editor.

The guests, fashionistas, A-listers and beauty junkies rushed to the scene of the color combustion all decked out. Most notable were **Mary Ann Tinio**, complete with checkered skirt and net stockings, L'Oreal's own **Leica Carpo** in her Rhett Eala Wink dress ("The best thing is, it's off the rack!"), **Mel Lozano** in a white Mphosis ensemble and **Celine Lopez** in *va-va-voom* vintage wear from American rag ("It costs only $20," she said—but it looked $20,000 to me), with makeup by, who else, **Henri Calayag**. Other guests chose to go the black route with avant-garde twists, like a bow tie here and a funky accessory there. The guests matched the essence of Shu Uemura: ahead of its time, artsy, trend-setting, and, most of all, fun!

Here's the peak of the cosmetic and sartorial revelry that night.

SHU COUPLE. Lex Ledesma and Tina Tinio of Shu Uemura

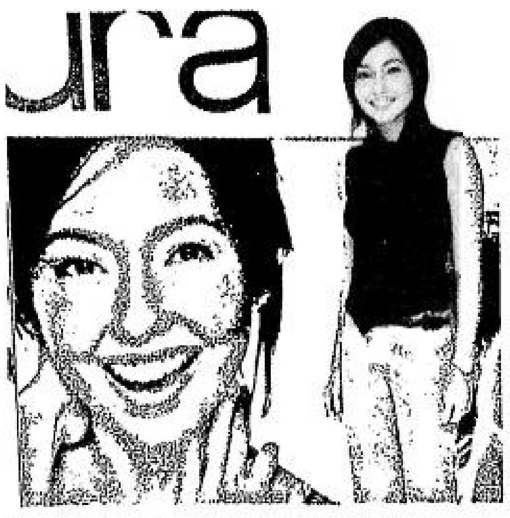

STRIPED PAIR. Liesl Samson and Marco Rodriguez


BLACK IN LACE. Carmina Sanchez and Alfonso Sy

MASTER AND MUSE. Henri Calayag and Celine Lopez

HOT SET. Carmen and Lia Delgado with Mark Villar

A-LIST. Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Karen Santos and Kitkat Zobel PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

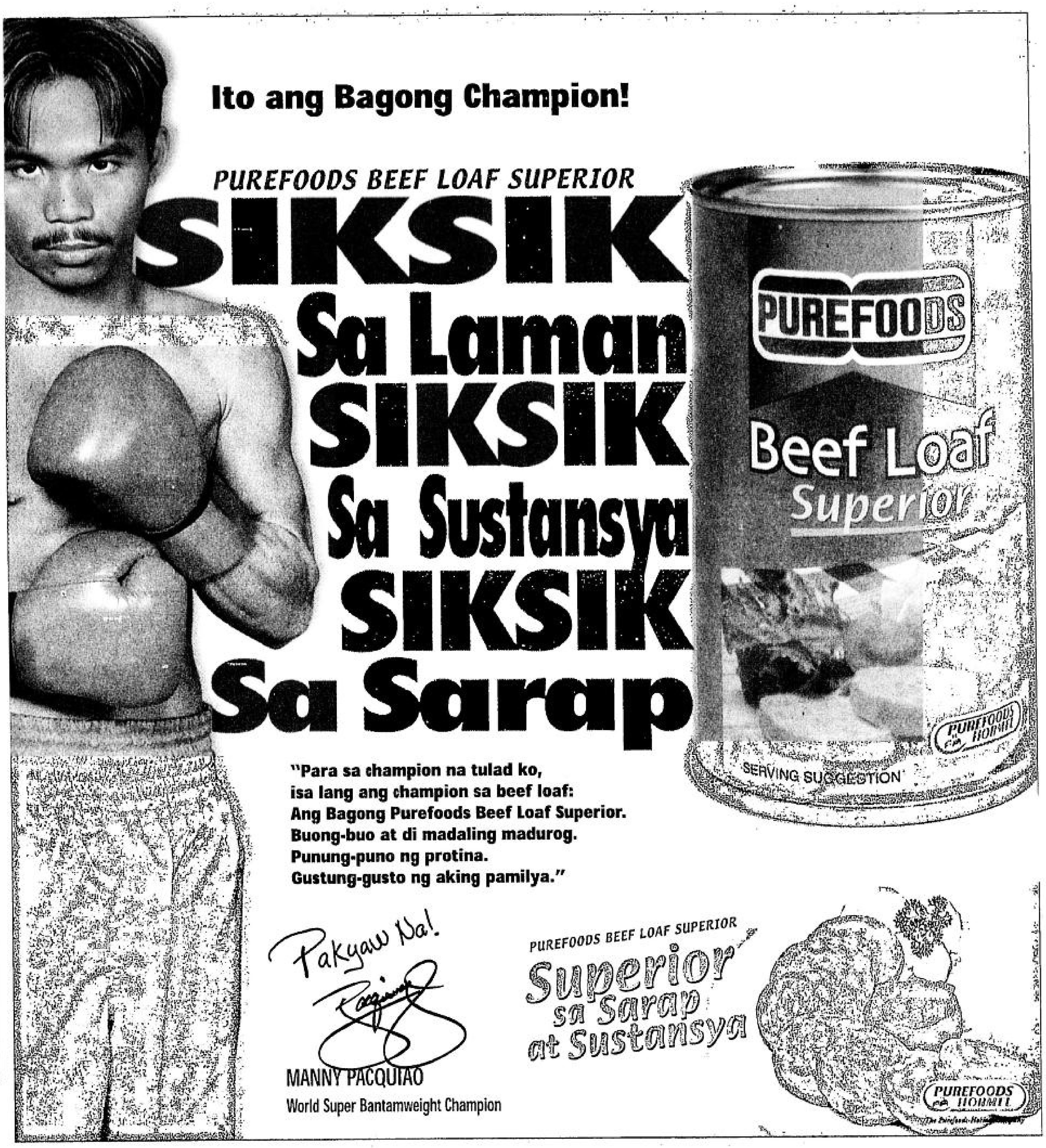


SUN and smiles from Hindy Weber-Tantoco

SHU Uemura's Kakayasu Uchiide on supermodel Rissa Samson

METRO LIFESTYLE. Ingrid Go and Vicky de Leon

MAKE A WISH. Mia Borromeo and Wendy Puyat



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BUSINESS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

RN120220

Color-coding, cruise crisis and wardrobe basics

From page C1

bright blue to bring out delicate coloring.

Although much of this still holds true, choice of color is more personal, less complicated and less limited nowadays. Instead of adhering to absolute rules and color categories, simply hold a certain color near your face and check if it creates a healthy glow and smoothens and clarifies your complexion. You'll surely notice if a particular hue is flattering or does totally nothing for your skin tone.

It's also important to determine your skin's undertone. As I've mentioned many times before, Filipinas usually have yellow undertones, which means you will look better in warm colors like beige, cream, tan, gold and brown. This applies not only to your clothing selection but to your choice of hair color and makeup, as well. So, when you have your hair colored, consult with a trusted professional hairdresser who can give you sound advice as to shades that will brighten your face. And when buying makeup, remember that earth, peach-pink and other coral shades will suit you best.

CRISP cotton polo shirts in various colors are a must for the working woman.

A BASIC pencil skirt is a necessity.

Model-writer Rissa Samson, a *morena* beauty, does not avoid any particular color except neon shades, which are not her style. She says black and white are good staples that always work while browns and beiges are flattering. Even pastels and primary colors work for her. She suggests that you avoid ashy colors like certain grays that might not complement your skin tone. Aside from clothing, she says that hair color is another option to consider, "I never colored my black hair before but when I worked for L'Oreal for the Esthetica Paris magazine, they colored my hair a nice shade of brown. A lot of people commented that it softened my features and brightened up my face."

Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Bride & Home editor/model and renowned Filipina beauty, also shares some clothing color tips. She says, "Warm hues are incredibly flattering to brown skin. Add to this the color white and it sets off the gold tones in most Filipinas' skin color." Tweetie adds that there are no restrictions with regard to other colors in the palette. "It's just a matter of choosing the right grade. Deep shades of cool blues, pinks, greens, purple and other such hues might be too rich and may make your skin look gray. Opt instead for lighter shades which look clean and fresh."

Meanwhile, model/fashion stylist and exotic beauty Izza Gonzales-Agana says you must avoid muddy colors (in clothing, hair coloring and makeup, especially foundation) that will make your skin look dirty. The only way to find out if something looks good on you is to try the product. If you are in doubt, ask the opinion of a style-savvy friend or a professional stylist. She also suggests that you keep things simple and neat. Izza says, "Good grooming is always a must so have neatly styled hair and a little bit of make up like blush and lip tint. And if you really want to look fresh all the time, simply wear clean, crisp white clothing!"

My husband is taking me along on their company cruise convention. Every event will have different themes like Flower Power, "Charlie's Angels" and Hawaiian luau. Can you help me plan what to wear? I can't afford to buy all new things.

Your husband's cruise convention sounds interesting. I'm sure you'll have a very memorable experience plus loads of fun once you get the "what to wear " dilemma out of your mind.

It shouldn't be too difficult to create the different looks, as all the above-mentioned themes are quite popular. The thing to do is to scour your closet for things you can use. If you can't find anything, try your sister or friends' closets. I'm sure they won't mind lending you things for your fashion-adventure. And if you need extra accessories, you can go to the ladies section of big department stores or to bazaars and flea markets to buy faux jewelry like big hoop earrings or chain belts.

Hair and makeup will also play a big part in making your look more authentic. So, make sure you pack the necessary makeup and hair styling products you will need.

Here are some suggestions as to how you can style yourself for the various theme parties:

Flower Power. "Make love not war" was the motto during the late 1960s to early 1970s when Flower Power was born as a reaction to the Vietnam War. To replicate the manner of dressing during that era, wear tie-dyed shirts or peasant blouses with bell-bottom pants or jeans. Accentuate with platform shoes or sandals, crocheted bags and silver peace signs hanging on leather or rubber cords. To complete the look, wear barely-there makeup and braid your hair on both sides (using only a portion of your hair in front) and accentuate with tiny flowers or buds.

- **Charlie's Angels.** A 1980s-inspired disco outfit should do the trick. All you need is a shimmery or metallic haltered top matched with a pair of dark jeans. Accessorize with a pair of lightly tinted aviator shades, large gold hoop earrings, a gold chain belt or bangles galore and extra high gold stilettos. Flip your hair à la Farrah Fawcett with the aid of a curling iron and use glittery gold make up on your face and body.
- **Hawaiian luau.** This is easy! Get hold of a colorful sarong that you can use as a skirt or dress. If you are not shy about showing off your body, wear a bikini top and match it with the sarong worn as a skirt. If you are on the conservative side, wear the sarong like a strapless or one-sided dress. Match this with colorful slippers or the lowly but apt *bakya*. Use either fresh flowers as leis around your neck or worn as a crown. You may also try strands upon strands of wooden beads for a more exotic look. Keep your hair down and wear minimal but dewy makeup.

Enjoy yourself and don't forget to take photos for posterity!

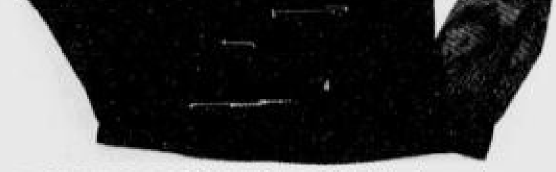
I'm starting my first job soon and I need to shop for a professional wardrobe. What basic pieces should I buy? I'm only using all the money I received as graduation gifts so I don't have much to spend. Please suggest reasonably priced options.

Congratulations on your new job! It's good that you are starting to plan your professional wardrobe. Taking care of how you look will give you the confidence and self-assurance to concentrate on other more important things.

When putting together your wardrobe essentials, keep in mind that all you need are a few good pieces in neutral colors and wrinkle-resistant fabrics that you can mix and match and accentuate with various accessories. The core of your capsule wardrobe is the suit—a well-cut jacket with a matching skirt and/or a pair of pants. But you will also need a tailored dress, a polo shirt, a shell and a cardigan, all of which you can match with your suit or jacket to create different looks. You will also need a practical, leather tote with matching closed shoes in black or brown. And depending on your company's dress code, you might have to buy several pairs of stockings.

You don't have to spend a fortune to purchase these basics. Before shopping, it would be wise to go through your closet to check what items you can use for work. This way, you only buy what you really need and you create more combinations with the use of your old things. Also, check out local brands and shops like Viseversa and Lya Armovit in Rustan's that offer functional yet stylish work wear that are reasonably priced. Another option would be to have your clothes sewn by your neighborhood *modista* or tailor. You can maximize your peso's worth if you buy your own fabric and just have it made into your basics. Just make sure that the cut, quality and fit are acceptable.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



DAY INTO NIGHT. Wear this black mesh number under your jacket during the day. And simply remove the jacket for a day-into-night look.

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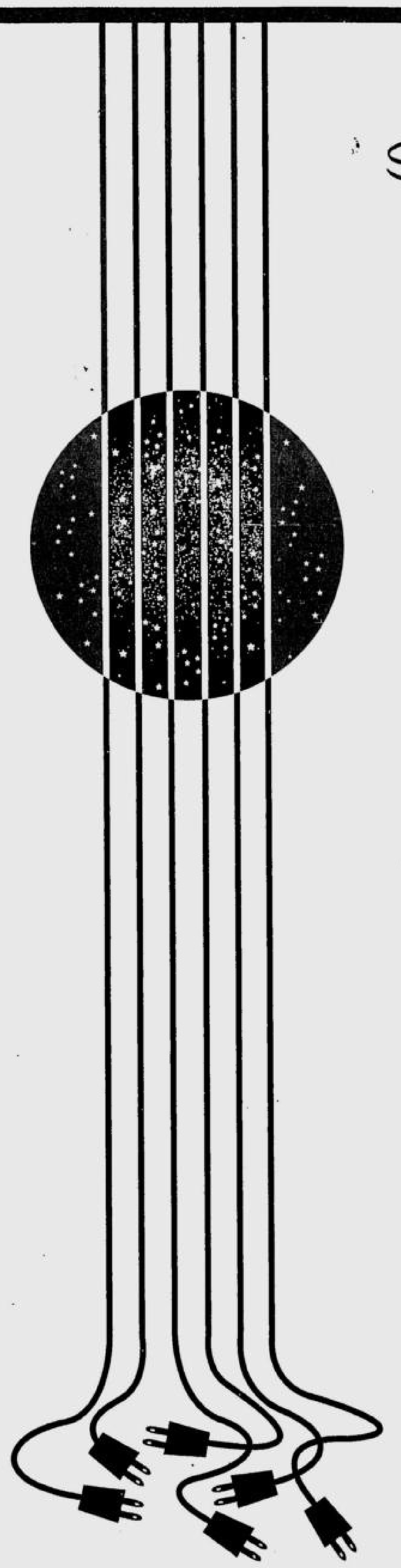

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SUPERMODELS. Finalists Angie Leils, Sherlyn Ram, Clare Honrade, Ivy Tablante, Jann Santos, Khrista Danilo, Shan Apuad and Verns Buckley pose with Joey Espino, the show's producer and director. PHOTO BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

'It' girls for the world

By Allison W. Lopez

LIKE any other ramp model, she has long legs and an enviable figure. She is the sort that makes men drool. But unlike the others, she's got *it*—the mysterious "X-factor" that distinguishes her, a supermodel, from the other mannequins.

For Supermodel of the World-Philippines finalist Verns Buckley, "the 'X-factor' is one's presence on the ramp."

Presence was definitely not something lacking from the eight finalists from all over the country when they oozed with oomph while strutting their stuff at the Supermodel of the World press conference on Oct. 21. With their tanned skin glowing even beneath little black outfits, the models, aged 14-22, wowed the press with their remarkable poise and grace.

But who among them has that magnetic quality we call the "X-factor"? Who deserves to be called a supermodel?

On Oct. 29 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, the answer will be revealed. The winner will represent the country in the Supermodel of the World finals in the Dominican Republic.

The modeling tilt, organized by Ford Models, an old hand in the international modeling industry, is held yearly to look for fresh beauties whose faces will launch a thousand global superbrands.

The look

Almond eyes, a high-bridged nose and bronzed skin—an enchanting combination of Chinese, Indian and Malay features—constitute the look that is indemand these days, says Joey Espino, the show's producer and director.

He explains that the models with those features cater to the largest markets, including Asia.

"It's the 'global Asian' look. It's the face that consumers throughout the region—and in many parts of the world where Asians have migrated—can relate to," Espino says.

Espino adds that the Philippines is one of the few countries where one can find the exotic mix since intermarriages are commonplace.

"The uncommon mix of features makes the Filipina quite interesting," he says.

"Just as Venezuela is well-known for its beauty queens, the Philippines, within the decade, will be known for its supermodels," Joey declares.

Although the finalists know that models from other countries may be taller than their 5'7"-5'8" frame, they definitely have what it takes to be Supermodel of the World.

A MAKEOVER session with Sue Devitt

High-point makeup from Down Under

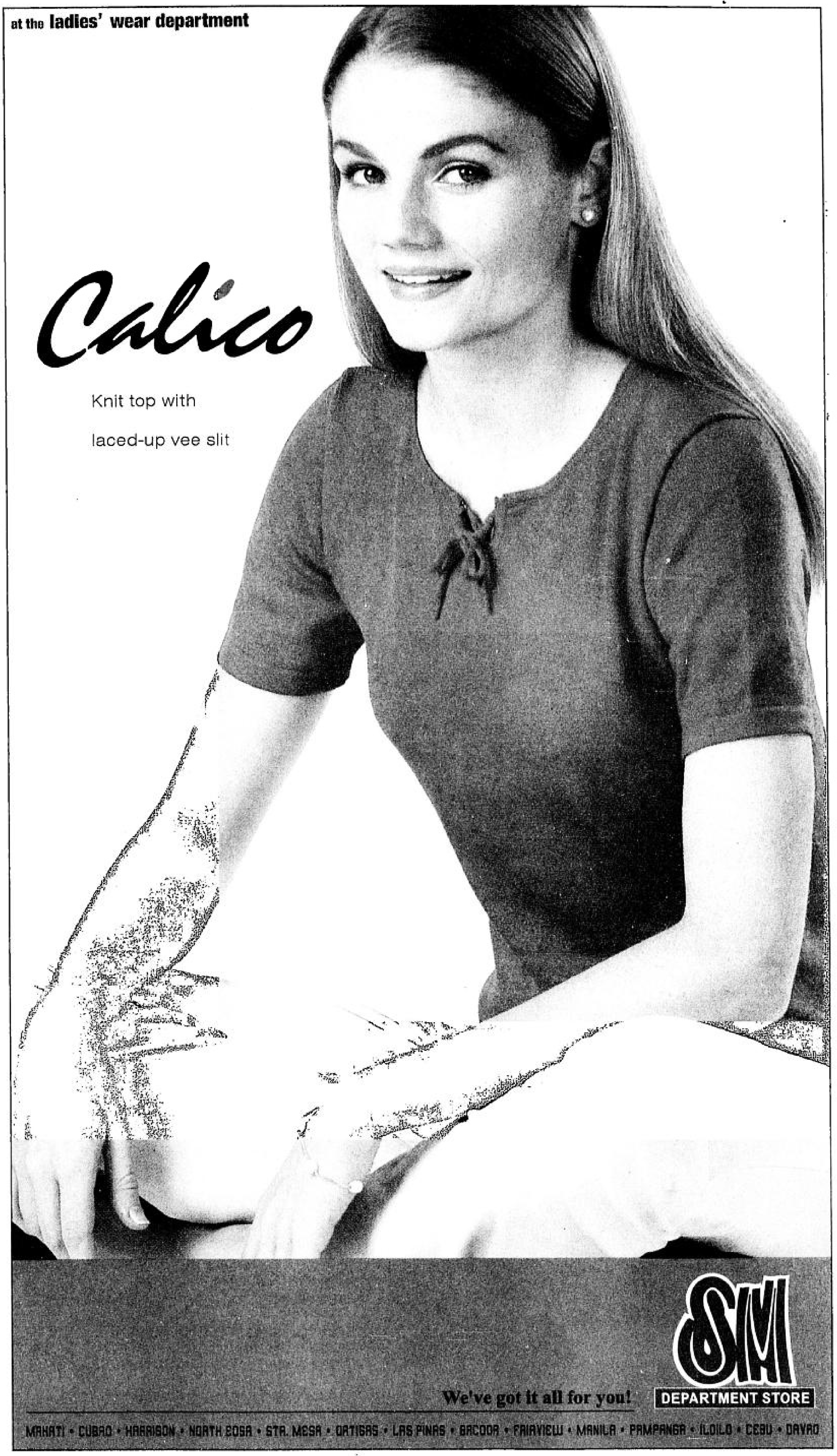
AUSTRALIAN Sue Devitt is the makeup artist behind the eponymous collection, Sue Devitt Studio.

Devitt first received recognition at Nars, where she worked as creative assistant to Francois Nars. The youngest makeup artist in history to be awarded an international product development contract, Devitt acted as creative consultant for Awake Cosmetics, where she designed the extensive color line.

Devitt's work has graced the fashion runways of Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, Oscar de la Renta, Valentino and, most recently, Japanese sensation Akira. Her work has appeared in Vogue, Allure, Harper's Bazaar and Marie Claire. She has worked with such renowned fashion photographers as Michel Comte, Louis Sanchez, Walter Chin and Tom Munro.

Hollywood stars Sandra Bullock, Brooke Shields and Celine Dion rely on Devitt's skills to keep them looking great.

In her Sue Devitt Studio, the artist returns to her Australian roots, drawing from aboriginal art to make a rich, distinctive color palette. The line has been designed specifically for the modern woman seeking a new standard in makeup.



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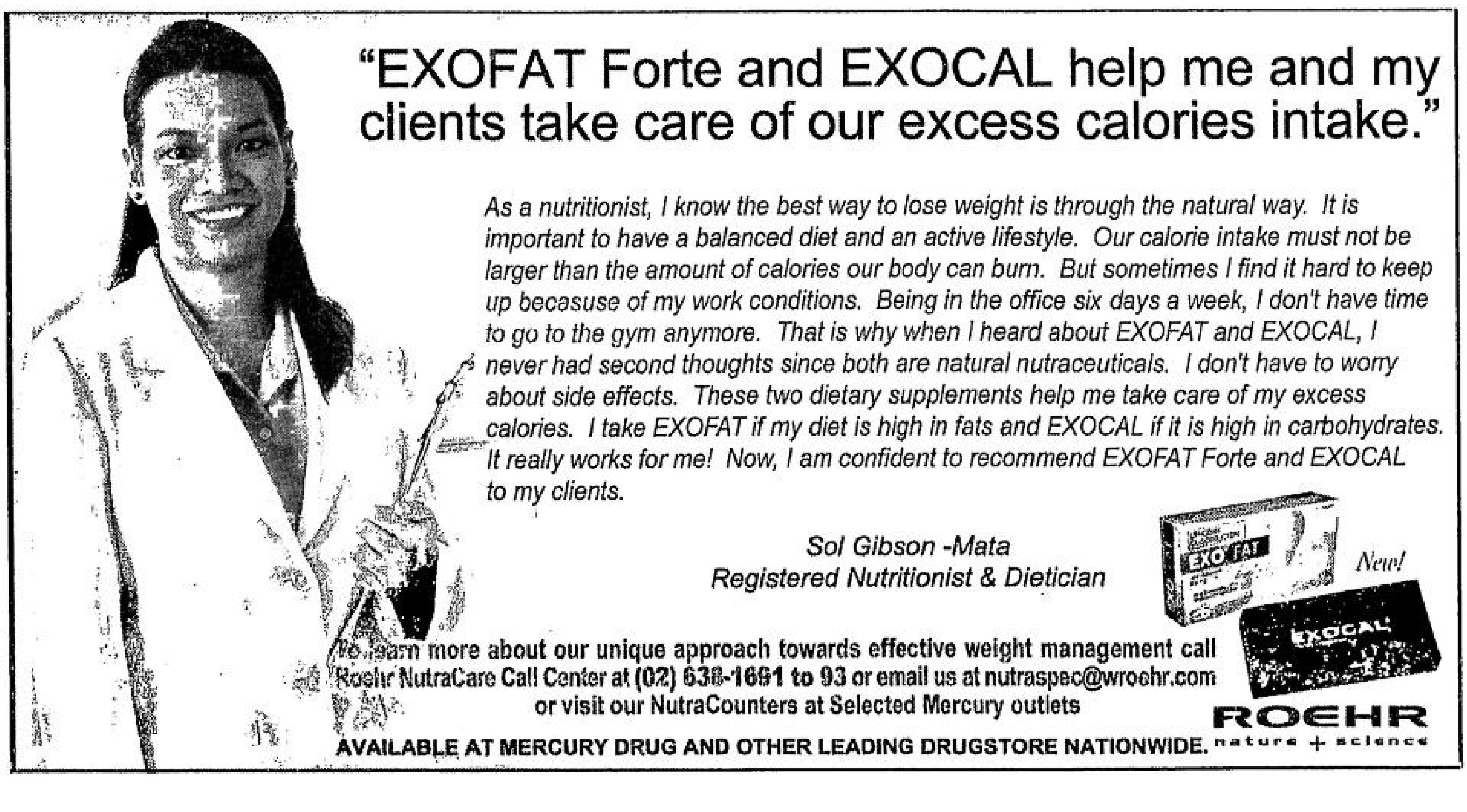

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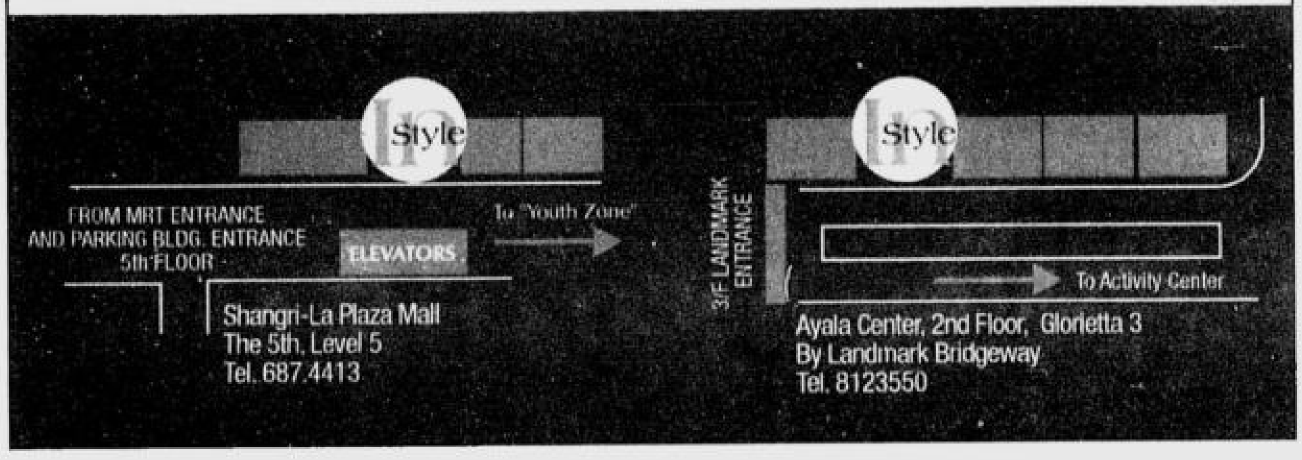

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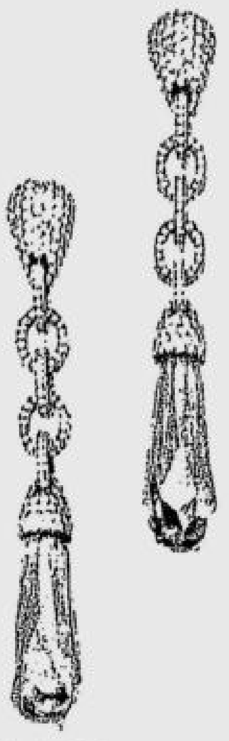
THE 12-STEP (LOT 1195). This 12-carat D-color diamond of flawless quality in the Asscher cut of the early 1900s has excellent near-square proportions and well-defined cut corners. It will go for $494,000-$500,000.

FLIGHT OF FANCY (LOT 1190). Very fine fancy intense blue .57 carat and intense pink .35 carat diamonds highlight a 4.82 carat D-color internally flawless diamond in a rare briolette cut. The pendant hangs from a link chain accented by 18 circular-cut white diamonds. Estimated price: $203-228,000



EMERALD BRIOLETTE (LOT 1348). Briolette-cut natural Colombian emeralds weighing 26.55 carats are suspended from pavé-set diamonds on blackened gold links estimated at $125-152,000.

FANCY THIS (LOTS 1378-1369)! Fancy colored diamonds of a rare red, blue and yellow-green are the highlights of the Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite sale.

Colored season for jewelry

Sotheby's is set to auction fabulous hued gems this month

By Kitty Go
Contributor

AT ABOUT THIS time last year, Quek Chin Yeow, senior director of jewelry for Sotheby's China and Southeast Asia, speaking to premier customers of HSBC, had noticed a huge interest in colored diamonds, especially among Asian collectors. One specialist put it, "Many people already own white diamonds and after you own earrings, a necklace and a bracelet of white diamonds, what else is there to buy?"

White diamonds are themselves a rarity and difficult to mine. Kimberlite is the source and 4,000 tons of kimberlite yields only 1 carat of diamonds. Most of these diamonds go into industrial use and only 1 percent will be classified as gem quality.

Colored diamonds are even rarer than whites. Only 1 carat of colored diamonds would come up for every 10,000 carats of white diamonds. The upcoming Sotheby's Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite sale features several lots of colored stones, but the most impressive are a 2.10 carats pear-shaped fancy vivid purplish pink (lot 1377), a .76 carat oval fancy purplish red (lot 1378), a 1.17 radiant-cut fancy vivid blue (lot 1379) and a 1.27 carat round-corned rectangular brilliant fancy vivid yellowish green (lot 1380).

India, particularly Agra, has been the historical source for pink diamonds. Today, pink diamonds also come from South Africa and in the last 15 years, from Australia. The record sale for a pink diamond is $2 million for an 8.82-carat fancy intense sold in Hong Kong. The largest pink diamond in existence, the Darya-I Nur, was part of the Iranian crown jewels, but is rumored to have been smuggled out of Iran. It weighs 175 metric carats.

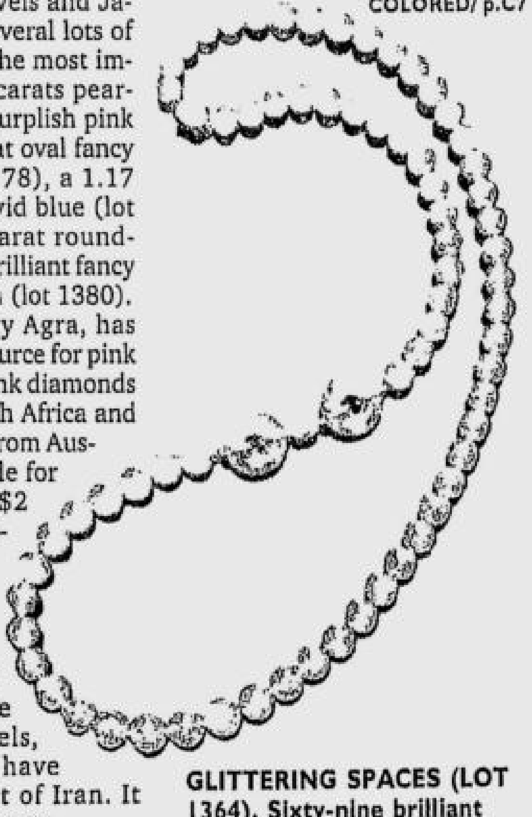
Chromium gives pink diamonds its color and the greatest saturation of pink results in red. Only one or two red diamonds have come on the market, one costing almost $900,000 for less than a carat, making it the most expensive diamond in the world. Lot 1378, at .76 carats, is estimated at $250,000.

Blue diamonds owe their color to boron. The most famous blue diamond has to be the notorious 45.5 carat Hope diamond, which supposedly brought misfortune to its owners. It was finally bought by Harry Winston who donated it to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington. French rulers also had a love affair with heart-shaped blue diamonds. Louis XIV bought the biggest one weighing 67 carats. Napoleon also bought the eponymous Eugenia for his mistress. The most expensive blue is 19.9 carats and sold for $9.9 million in New York. Green diamonds of any size are rare. Although Quek Chin Yeow says the source of its hue is debatable, its color is known to be a result of millions of years' exposure to a radioactive source.

Choice cuts

Since the 14th century when diamonds were first faceted, there have been many attempts to maximize the optical effect diamonds can project. In 1919, a Belgian scientist, Marcel Tolkowsky,

COLORED/ p.C7



GLITTERING SPACES (LOT 1364). Sixty-nine brilliant green jade beads are anchored by 1.5- and 3.2-carat diamonds and two matching jadeite hoops in a single strand estimated at $645,000-$900,000.

The first solid food trusted by mothers now goes by the name Nestlé Infant Cereal.

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Farine Lactee Nestlé, 1895

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Nestlé Cerelac, 1977

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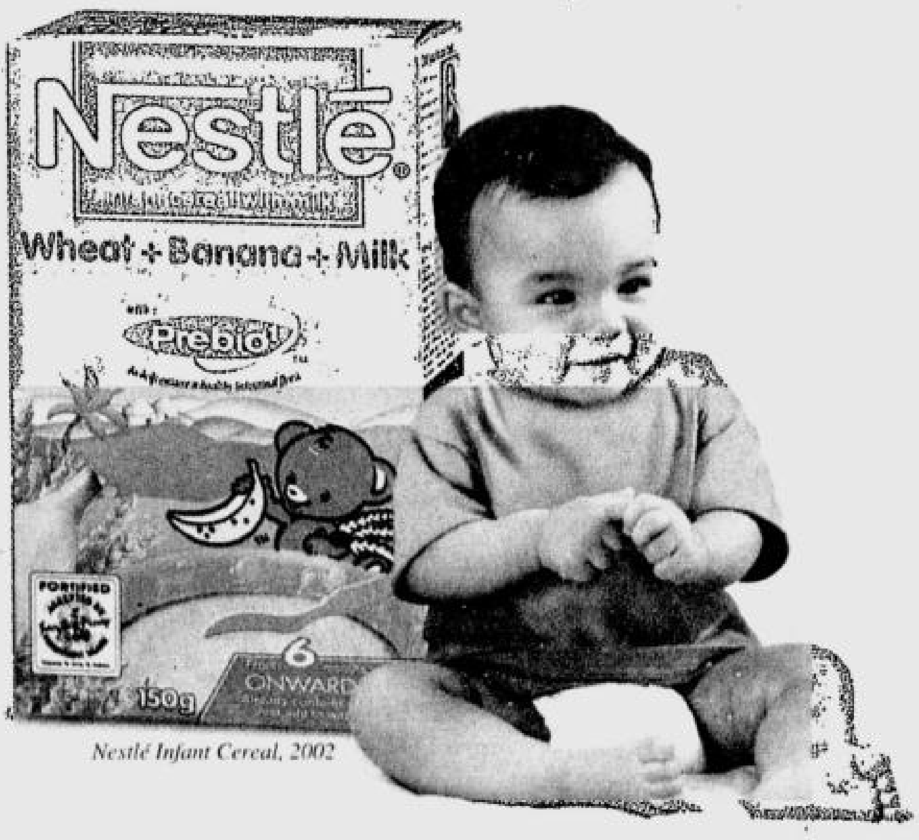

Nestlé Infant Cereal, 2002

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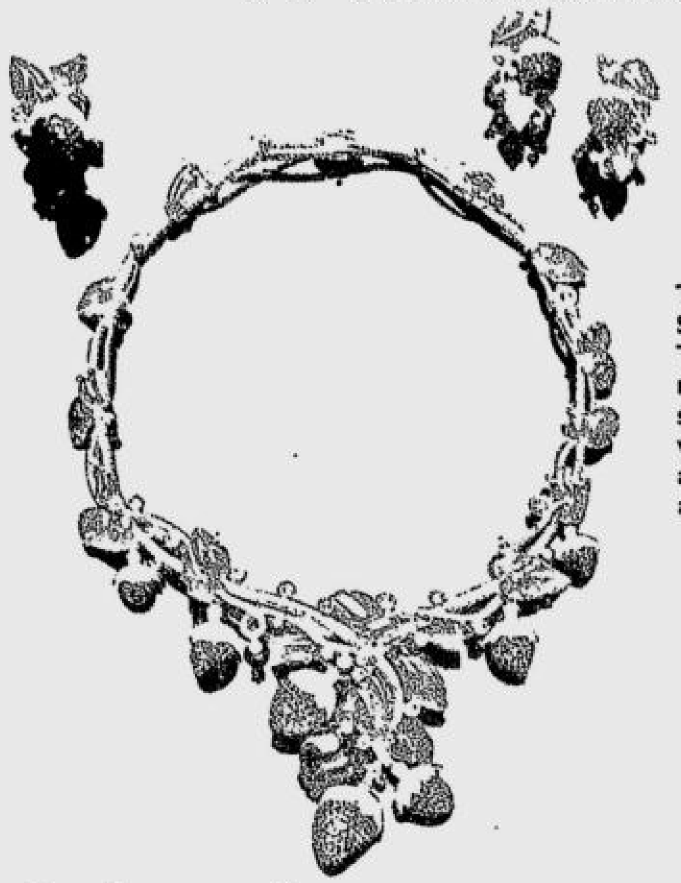


THE SWEETNESS OF STRAWBERRIES (LOT 1332). This suite of jadeite leaves, ruby and diamond strawberries and diamond vines take precious stones to a whimsical level. Estimated at $113,000-$142,000.

Colored season for jewelry

From page C6

introduced a cutting technique producing 58 facets that is now popularly known as round brilliant. It is very rare to find a diamond over 20 carats that bears a brilliant cut. Diamonds of this size are found only in the following places: South Africa, Brazil and India. Next week, a 25.2 carat brilliant cut, internally flawless, D-color diamond goes on the block for over a million dollars.

However, the rarest cut of all must be the briolette or *pendeloque*, which dates back to 17th century, when a French explorer brought briolette-cut gemstones to Europe. Louis XIV bought these stones and added them to the French crown jewels. This cut is technically more difficult as it involves more facets. It gives the gem a look of a drop-shaped double rose cut. Unlike the brilliant, which reflects light, the briolette disperses light like a prism, giving the wearer (or anyone who gets close as I saw in a photo my friend took of himself and Imelda Marcos in emeralds and briolette diamonds two weekends ago at the Peninsula) subtle illumination. The Sotheby's sale has two briolette diamonds, a 4.82 carat white with accompanying blue and pink diamonds for $203,000 and a single 7-carat blue for a little over a million dollars.

In the early 1900s, the Asscher brothers of Holland invented a squarish step-cut, which was simply a modified pillow or cushion cut. The cut has a flat table accentuated by small step-cuts along the top, descending to larger facets underneath the diamond. The Asscher cut hardly exists as it has now evolved into the emerald cut. A 12-carat Asscher cut ring (lot 1195) of D color and flawless clarity goes under the hammer next week with an estimate of about $400,000.

In 1976, Henry Grossbard created the radiant cut. This cut is similar to the princess cut with beveled corners but has "life of a round brilliant cut diamond" as witnessed in one of the blue diamonds (lot 1379), a highlight of this sale.

Bold and beautiful

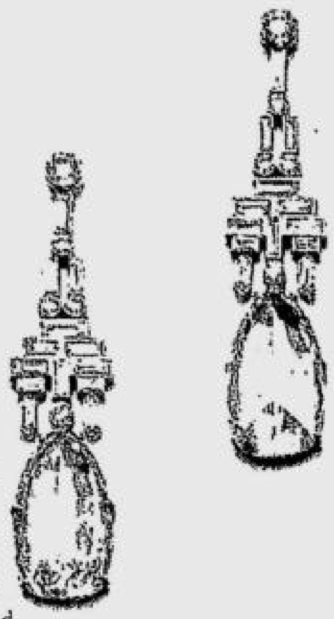
If you are saying, "Enough already of the stones with the same prices as houses in Forbes! Give me fashion!"—then feast your eyes on a ruby bead and diamond necklace (lot 1194) by Fulco Santostefano della Cerda, Duke of Verdura (1898-1978). This noble Sicilian, the Tony Duquette of his day, started his career collaborating with Coco Chanel on Baroque and medieval style jewelry. He is credited with the classic Chanel design of the Maltese cross. In 1939, he opened his eponymous boutique, Verdura, on Fifth Avenue, creating witty and dramatic jewels for the jet-set. Today the name Verdura is synonymous with a bold yet fashionable style for women who wear jewelry for fun and fashion rather than preciousness and status.

The Magnificent Jewels sale in Hong Kong would not be complete without the requisite jade pieces. From jadeite figurines of dogs to bangles (lot 1363) to the most perfect and translucent green beaded necklaces (lots 1364 and 1372), there is something for every jade lover. The mysterious gem of the Orient gets a whimsical treatment with a jadeite, ruby and diamond strawberry suite (lot 1332) featuring jadeite leaves and diamond encased rubies on a diamond necklace made to look like a vine. Strawberry ear clips and a double-shanked ring complete the set for an estimate of $113,000. Probably the best (six) figures a woman can have for herself.

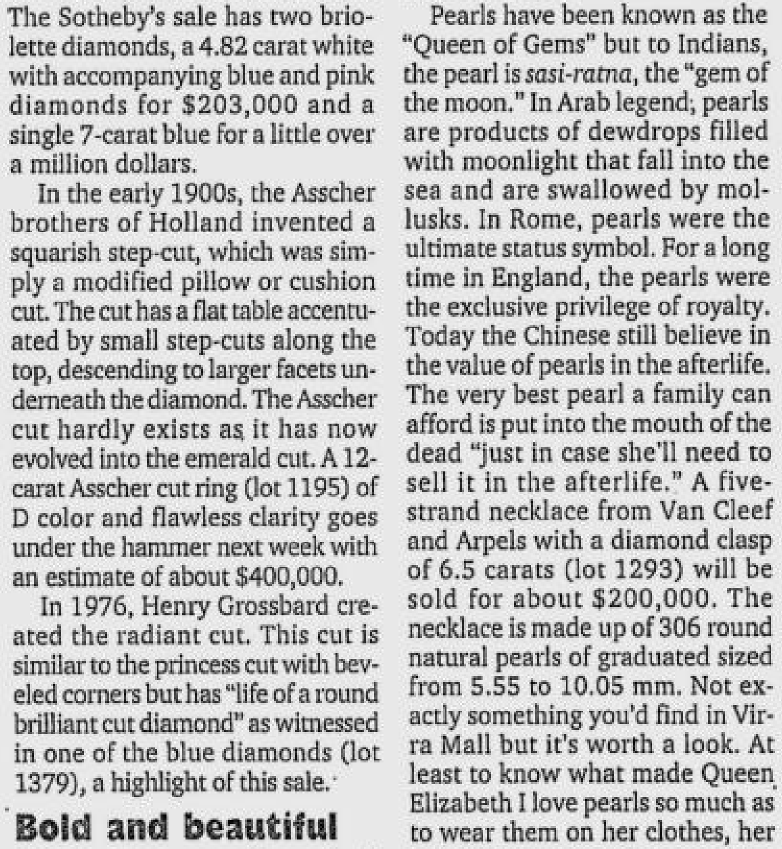
Pearls have been known as the "Queen of Gems" but to Indians, the pearl is *sasi-ratna*, the "gem of the moon." In Arab legend, pearls are products of dewdrops filled with moonlight that fall into the sea and are swallowed by mollusks. In Rome, pearls were the ultimate status symbol. For a long time in England, the pearls were the exclusive privilege of royalty. Today the Chinese still believe in the value of pearls in the afterlife. The very best pearl a family can afford is put into the mouth of the dead "just in case she'll need to sell it in the afterlife." A five-strand necklace from Van Cleef and Arpels with a diamond clasp of 6.5 carats (lot 1293) will be sold for about $200,000. The necklace is made up of 306 round natural pearls of graduated sized from 5.55 to 10.05 mm. Not exactly something you'd find in Virra Mall but it's worth a look. At least to know what made Queen Elizabeth I love pearls so much as to wear them on her clothes, her hair and even her slippers.

For details on the Sotheby's Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite sale on Oct. 31 at the Island Shangri-la, Hong Kong, call Kim Camacho, the Philippine representative of Sotheby's, at 884-8241 or e-mail kim.camacho@sothebys.com.ph .

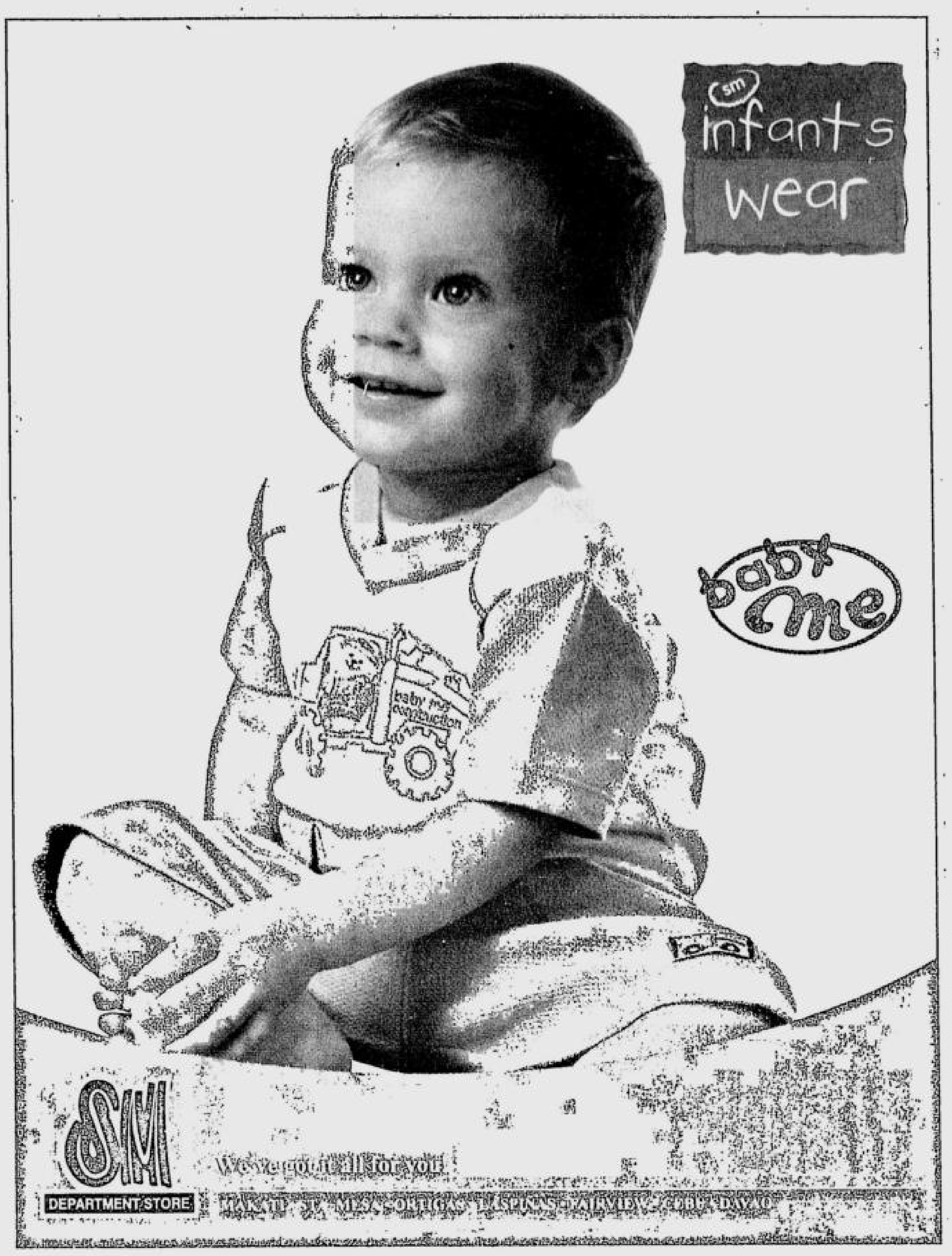
E-mail the author at kitty@kittygo.com



THE PERFECT ROSE (LOT 1292). Rose-cut diamond drops weighing almost 20 carats together hang from circular and baguette-cut diamonds on platinum. Estimated at $90,000-$100,000.



PEARL-FECTION (LOT 1293). Van Cleef and Arpels created this five-strand necklace of 306 natural pearls with a clasp of marquis, emerald and old mine-cut diamonds totaling 6.5 carats. Estimated at $190,000-$202,000.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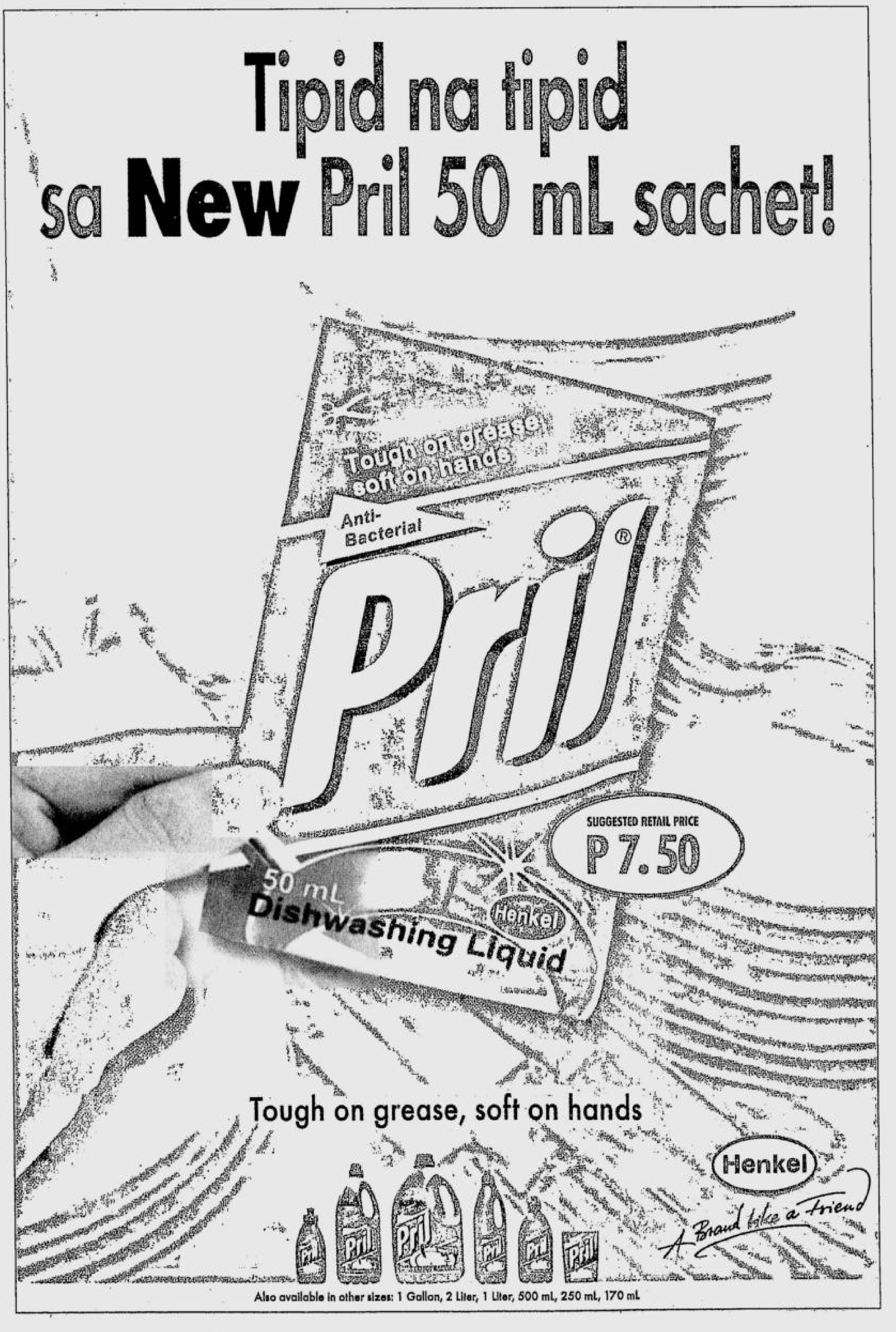
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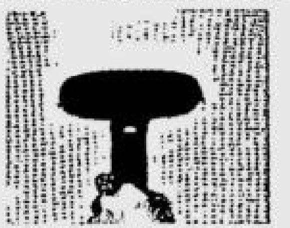

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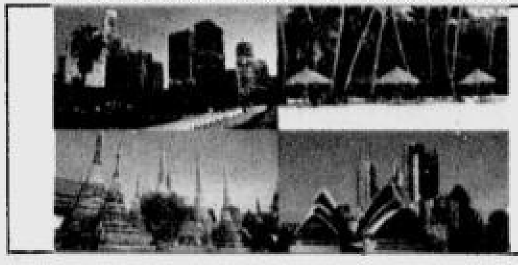

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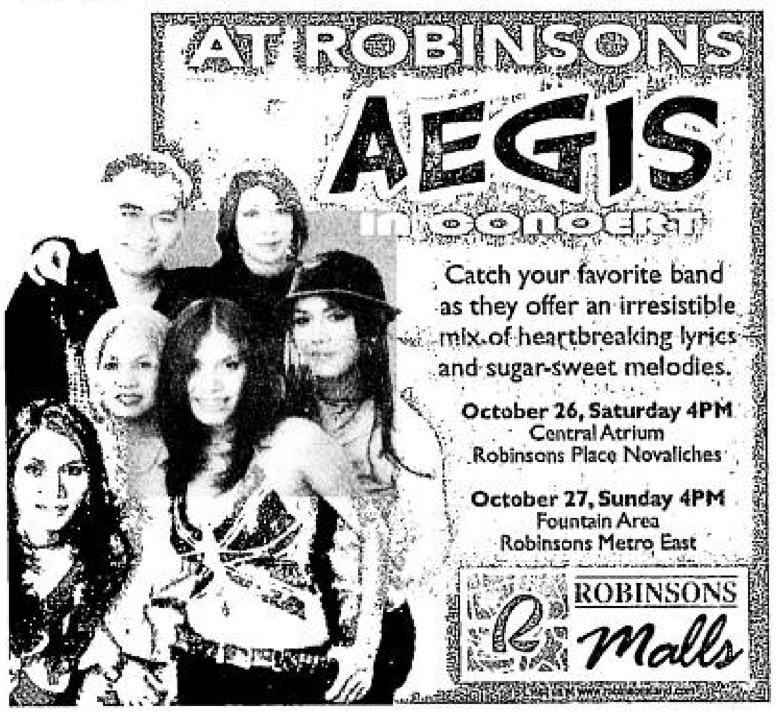
BEAUTY-QUEEN MODE. Abbygale Arenas-de Leon wants her clothes simple, basic and body hugging. For this photo, she wears a crystal-like choker she bought from a thrift shop in the US.

Abbygale's second wind

Story on page D4

In her new career as a corporate-image enhancer, former supermodel Abbygale Arenas-de Leon sticks to a homespun fashion sense that emphasizes the essential, not the flashy



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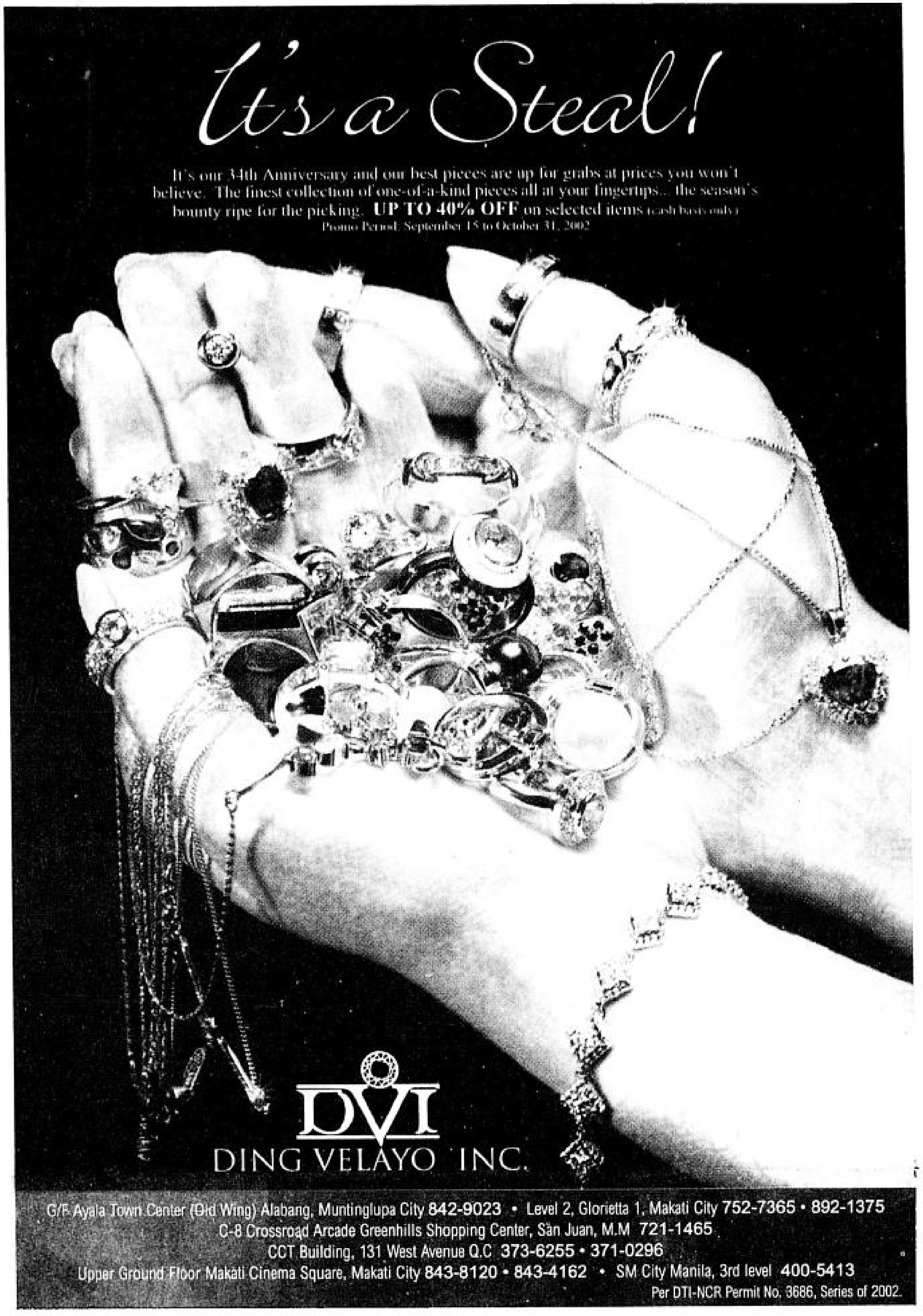

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Going to cemetery's not the only way to remember the dead

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My grandmother died last February. I was her favorite grandchild. We were all with her during her last days. Now November nears, I feel bad that even with the holidays, I will not be able to go home to light a candle on her tomb.

I recall reading last year your advice to someone who was also unable to go home for All Saints' Day. You said physical presence was not necessary, but prayers were important.

I would like to ask for more information. Of course, I will have a Mass said for her by the parish priest in our village. Can you suggest what more I can do? I am sure others reading this, who did not go to Catholic schools, will also be interested.

LINA

There are many ways of remembering our dear departed. You already know one, which everyone should follow.

Here is another suggestion. You can remember relatives and friends who have gone to the great beyond with special Masses. The Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate (Mami) is already distributing the Mami Holy Souls envelope for daily Masses in November. You may call the Mami office to get an envelope for your donation. The Oblate Fathers will offer the Masses.

Here is a quote printed on their envelope—St. Monica's request to St. Augustine: "Lay the body anywhere, let not the care for it in any way disquiet you. This only I ask, that you remember me at the Lord's altar wherever you may be."

You may call them at 364-5603, 364-8060 or 361-7636. Their address: Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate, St. Eugene de Mazenod Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City. Those outside Metro Manila may inquire with Mami provincial centers.

And since we are thinking of our departed loved ones, this is also the time to remind you about Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls (PWHS), the association behind Fore and Aft, the quarterly Catholic publication that aims to create and spread awareness of the plight of the Holy Souls. Subscription rate is P100 per year.

This is not an advertisement, but I am just sharing the good quiet moments I get from reading the publication, as well as other pamphlets available from PWHS, like "How to Avoid Purgatory" and "Read Me or Rue It." They have many others.

The pamphlets are printed by the Monfort (Shared Blessings) Foundation, a non-stock, nonprofit organization. Its founding president is Rep. Narciso D. Monfort of Iloilo.

To inquire about the PWHS pamphlets, which are all very affordable, call (632) 531-2157 or 531-0394 local 101. Their address: Unit A-1, Guevent Commercial Condominium, corner Libertad and M. Cruz Streets, Mandaluyong. Those in the provinces can write to Monfort Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 220, Greenhills, 1502 San Juan, M.M.

The above are all about what we should remember on Nov. 2, All Souls' Day. However, on Nov. 1, All Saints' Day, let us hear Mass to honor all the Saints and pray for more blessings.

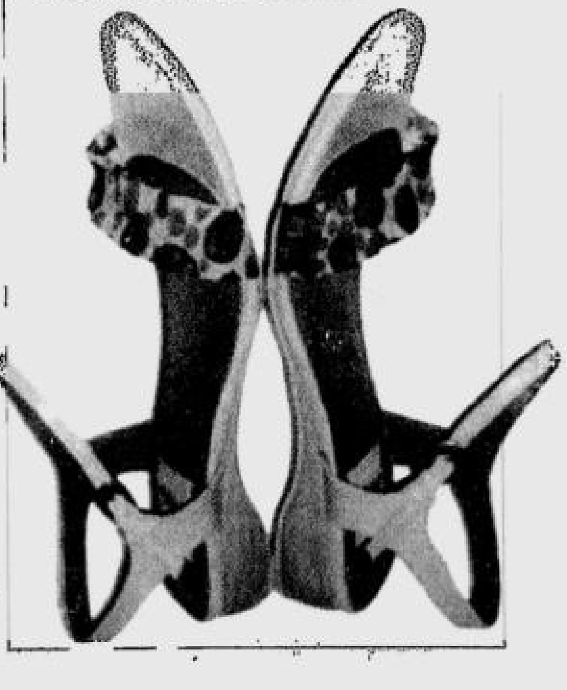
E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

Stylish shoes for 'plus-size' women

WHO says extra sizes can't be dainty? Here are Xxtra's one-band ruffed sandals with pastel, multi-toned stacked heels, available in blue, lime and red.

Finding the shoe that fits is frustrating business for someone who wears a size 10, 11 or 12. Good news! Xxtra is changing all that. The new brand offers a wide selection of glamorous and exciting mules, sandals, slides and pumps in sizes 9-12.

Xxtra outlets are at the Ladies' Shoes sections of SM department stores in Bacoor, Cebu, Cubao, Davao, Manila, Megamall and San Fernando.

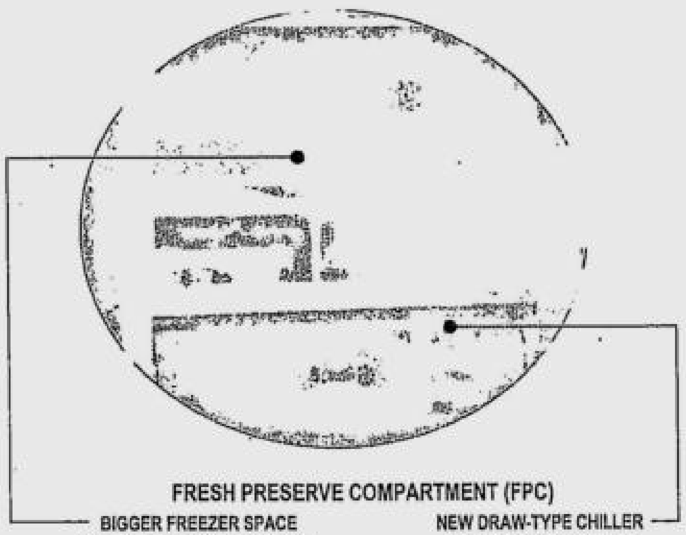


It's N new life
Now You Can See The Bigger Feature.
National

Finally! Take pleasure in bigger, fresher treat.
Only with the new **National Single Door Refrigerator**.
The one designed with the biggest Fresh Preserve Compartment (FPC) -- the combined storage space of its Big Freezer and Chiller.
Also with power savings features that are cool on your budget.
Simply shows that bigger is much better and fresher.

**** Available in Manual and Semi-auto Defrost models.*

New National Single Door Refrigerator.
It's N new fresh of bigger food space.


FRESH PRESERVE COMPARTMENT (FPC)
BIGGER FREEZER SPACE
Now, you can keep more favorites fresh and cold.
NEW DRAW-TYPE CHILLER
Lets you store more goods with a fresh convenience.

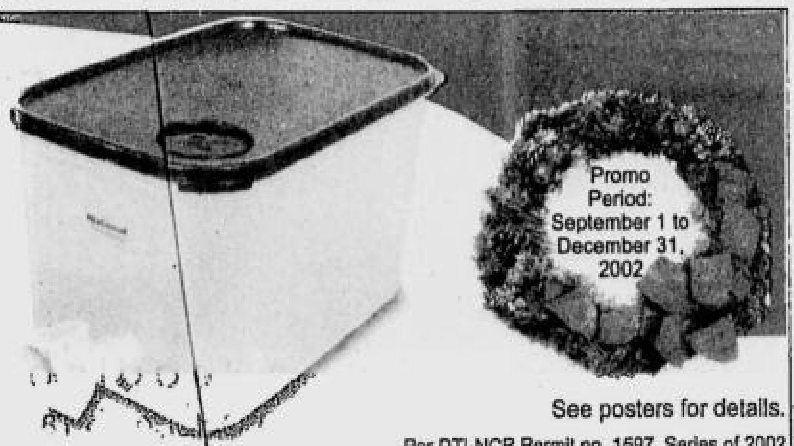
POWER SAVER REF

BUILT-IN DEODORIZER
Absorbs unfavorable smell or odor inside the ref.
(for Deluxe models NR-A502D, NR-A602D and NR-A702D)

National

National CHRISTMAS TREATS!

FREE Tupperware®
Ref Water Dispenser
for every purchase of any National Refrigerator and Freezer



See posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1597, Series of 2002

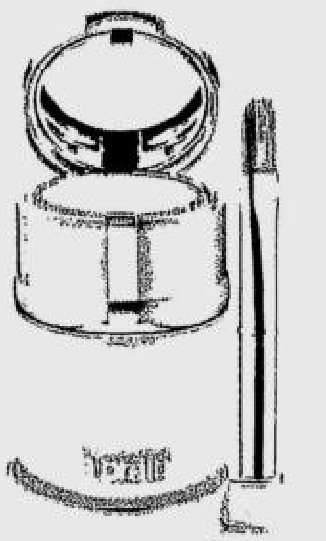
‘Bejeweled’ skin care products

WHAT is the most expensive beauty product you own? The term “expensive” is relative really. Some people think no price is too high to spend on themselves as they only deserve the best, while others feel anything other than soap and water is unnecessary expense.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

A new cream, selling for P10,500 per jar, contains real crushed South Sea pearls to hide imperfections and create even-toned, younger-looking skin



I have been to several launches and my eyes goggled at the price tags. It was especially frustrating if one fell in love with a product or discovered outright that it was the one they had been searching for their whole lives because it addressed their most pressing beauty problems/needs.

At the top of the list of pricey beauty products is **Estee Lauder’s Re-Nutriv Platinum** range specifically, Intensive Lifting Creme at P10,500 per 50-ml jar. Who is supposed to use it? People of any age with very dry skin and those with aging skin that is beginning to lose its elasticity. This cream lifts aging skin over time and is intensively smoothing. Marine and botanical ingredients enhance collagen production to firm up skin. They contain special moisture magnets to hydrate dry skin.

The cream contains real crushed South Sea pearls! The microscopic powder of the crushed pearls hides imperfections, creating even-toned, younger-looking skin. The cream may be used once or twice a day but is especially recommended at bedtime as the skin is most dehydrated during the period 11 p.m.-4 a.m.

Rustan’s sold 12 jars on the first day the cream got into its shelves, especially after a workshop with loyal Estée Lauder customers, who claimed that skin felt plump with moisture so their wrinkles lessened and their jaw lines were firmer.

The Estee Lauder line has a complete range of other products, too. For instance, the Intensive Softening Lotion a.k.a. toner (P2,450) contains real 24-k gold dust and it aims to deflect light from wrinkles and imperfections as well. I would recommend these to women 45 years old and above with very dry skin and those beginning to see signs of aging like lines, crepe necks and jowls.

One good thing about Asian skin is that we age more slowly than other races and the weather keeps our skin moist. At 32, the product was too rich for me. The good news: 1. It is cheaper here than in the United States where it is $215 exclusive of tax ($1: P53 as of this article); 2. It takes very little to cover face and neck area as it spreads easily.

La Prairie Skin Caviar Concealer and Foundation SPF 15. The name alone already sounds indulgent and it costs P8,000. This entire package includes a concealer brush, sponge, foundation and brush stand with mirror. Harper’s Bazaar recommends this to women 55 years and above. This multitask foundation hydrates while protecting skin at the same time. It is applied as cream but through the silicone polymer technology it produces a silky powder effect that leaves skin looking matte in photographs but dewy in person.

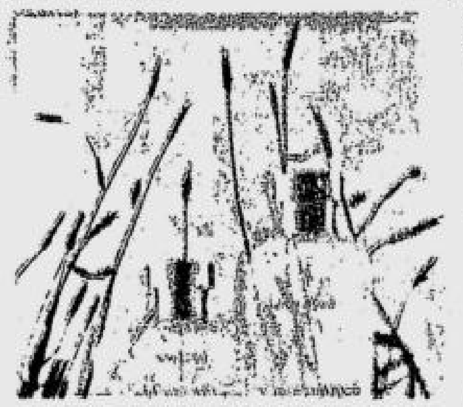
Technique: Apply to the back of the hand in a small amount, dampen a sponge and use it to tap foundation into five sections of the face—forehead, nose, chin and both cheeks, softly sweeping with the sponge in downward strokes then back up. The product’s accompanying sponge spreads the foundation evenly without splotches. Spreading from the middle to outer areas allows the shade to disappear softly to the neck.

The concealer is located on the lid of the foundation jar and the cover has a mirror for on-the-go application. To hide discoloration and imperfections, apply a small amount with a damp sponge before applying foundation. To hide blemishes and dark circles, use fingers to apply on areas you wish to hide or highlight These are spaces between brows, corners of eyelids, edges of nostrils, etc. Blend the edges with the brush with outward strokes. I do this after applying foundation. As the final step, use damp sponge to smooth out excess foundation and concealer especially in lined areas.

Comment: I couldn’t even tell I was wearing foundation because it felt light and was invisible. Getting your exact shade is crucial for the no-foundation-just-perfect-skin-look. However, the moment I left the air-conditioned room, I started to shine and needed powder to maintain the flawless finish. This product is definitely meant for more mature skin for with their skin type, it lasts all day. Now in my list, someone will be very lucky this Christmas.

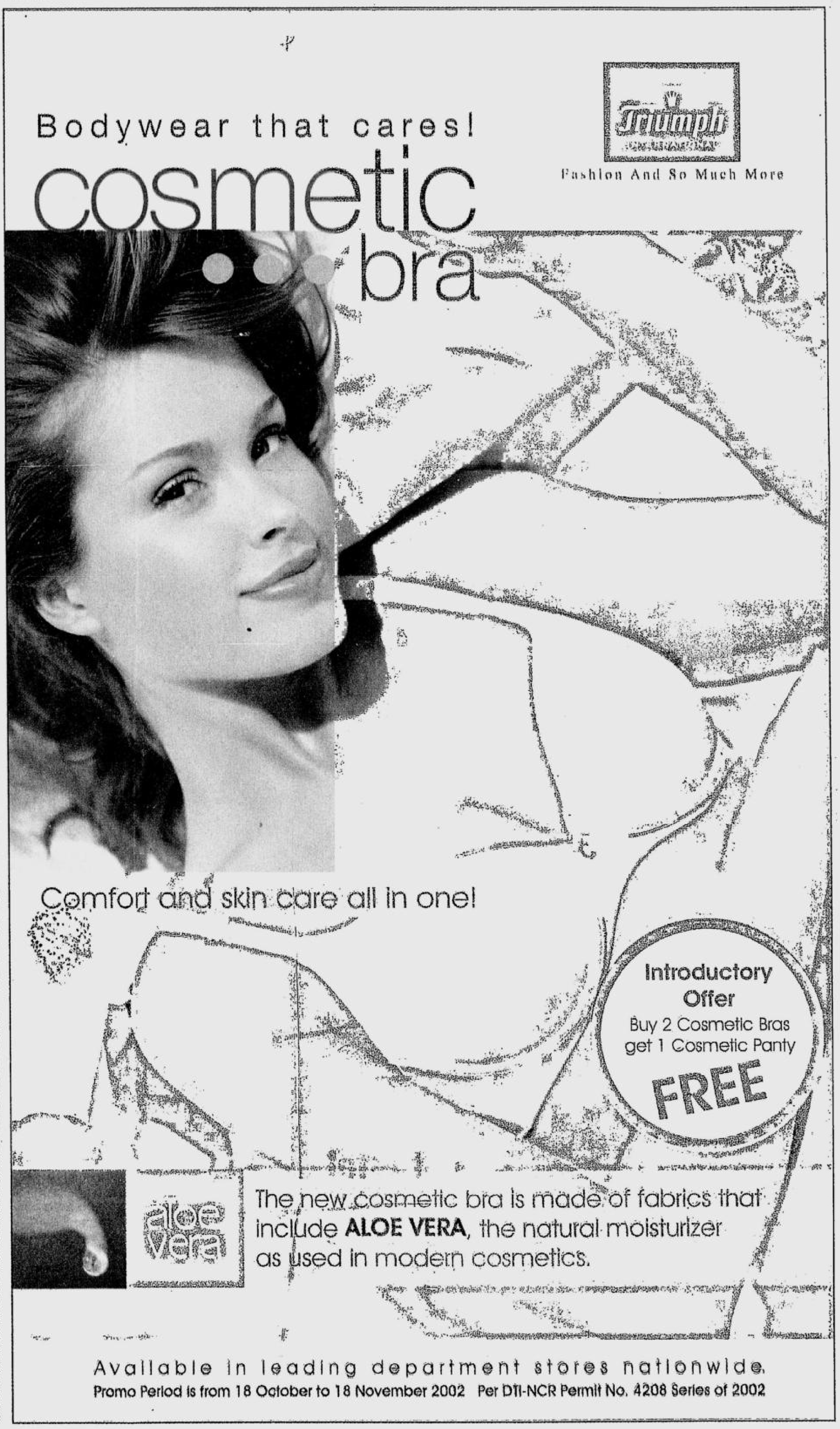
Both products are available exclusively at Rustan’s Department Store.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax to 897-4805



COUNTRY ESCAPADE

Burberry’s two latest creations conjure up the deep-rooted romanticism of the English countryside. Burberry London for Women fragrance emerges from the mingling of gentleness and coolness, while the suave fruity and amber notes evoke fragile rose-covered cottages where time seems to stand still. Burberry London for Men emanates from the countryside: the fragrance of heather and cool woodland balanced by the assurance of precious wood and amber.



Bodywear that cares!

cosmetic bra

Triumph
Fashion And So Much More

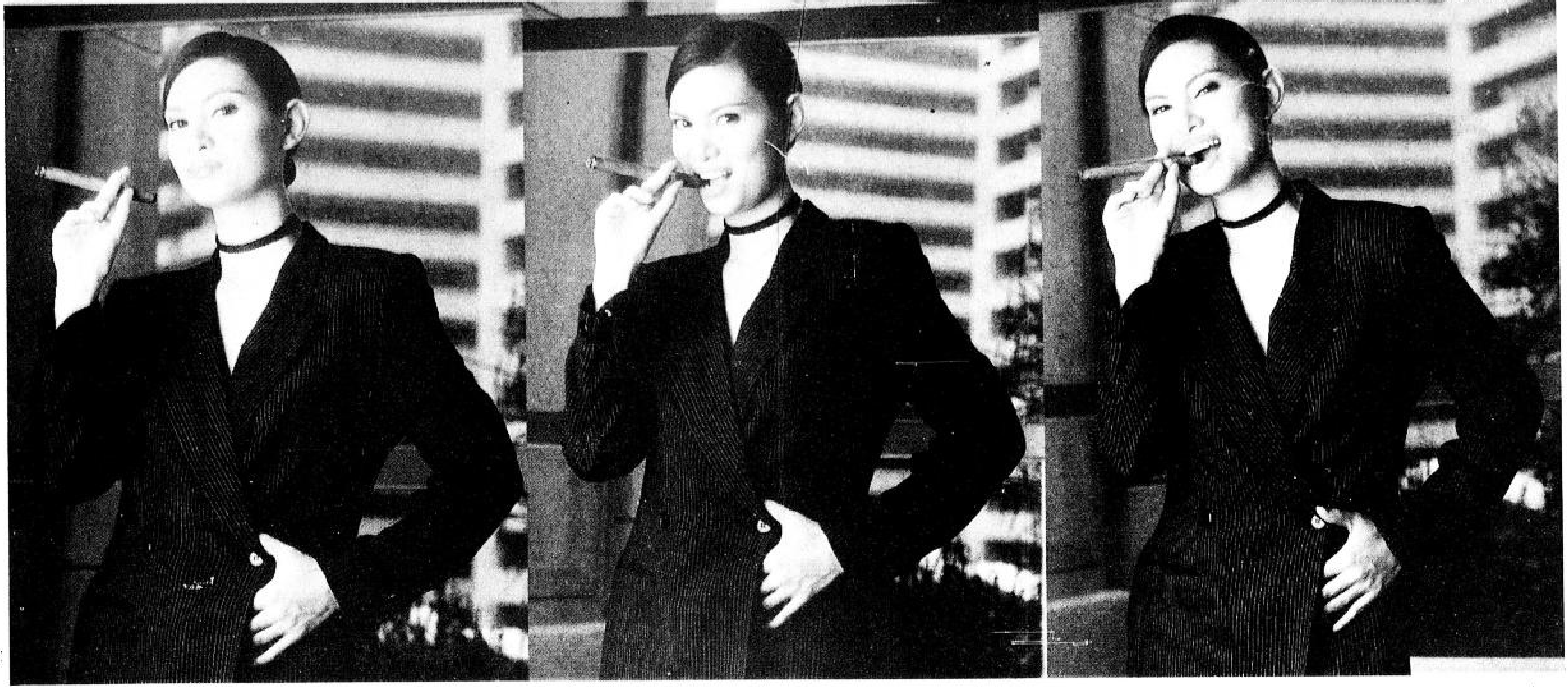
Comfort and skin care all in one!

Introductory Offer
Buy 2 Cosmetic Bras get 1 Cosmetic Panty
FREE

aloe vera

The new cosmetic bra is made of fabrics that include **ALOE VERA**, the natural moisturizer as used in modern cosmetics.

Available in leading department stores nationwide.
Promo Period is from 18 October to 18 November 2002 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4208 Series of 2002



SMOKIN' Abby takes a puff from her Montecristo cigar from Tabak in a pin-stripped blazer from Jones New York and a pair of black pants.

HAIR AND MAKEUP: FRANCIS QUIÑONES OF PIANDRÉ,
ORTIGAS CENTER (TEL. 697-1287 AND 631-8347)
LOCATION: THE PENINSULA MANILA
SPECIAL THANKS TO MARIANO GARCHITORENA

Abbygale's second wind

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jun de Leon

FORMER beauty queen Abbygale Arenas-de Leon has always displayed an independent fashion sense that dates back to her heydays as one of the country's top mannequins. Unlike a typical fashion plate, she likes to keep her clothes "simple, basic and body-hugging."

SINGULAR STYLE

"As long as I can," she says with a laugh, referring to her last criterion. "After giving birth to a son, I gained 20 pounds or so. Losing weight has been relatively effortless since I breastfeed. Still, I have yet to regain my old measurements."

Despite having a high threshold for resisting fads, Abbygale sometimes finds herself yielding to temptation. But unlike most women, she dabbles rather than immerses herself in a particular look. When fringe belts were all the rage early this year, for instance, she vowed to stay away from them until the last minute.

"I wasn't particularly fond of it," she says, "but I eventually bought one and that was it. It's a good thing it's no longer in. At least, I wasn't left with a closet-full of fringe belts."

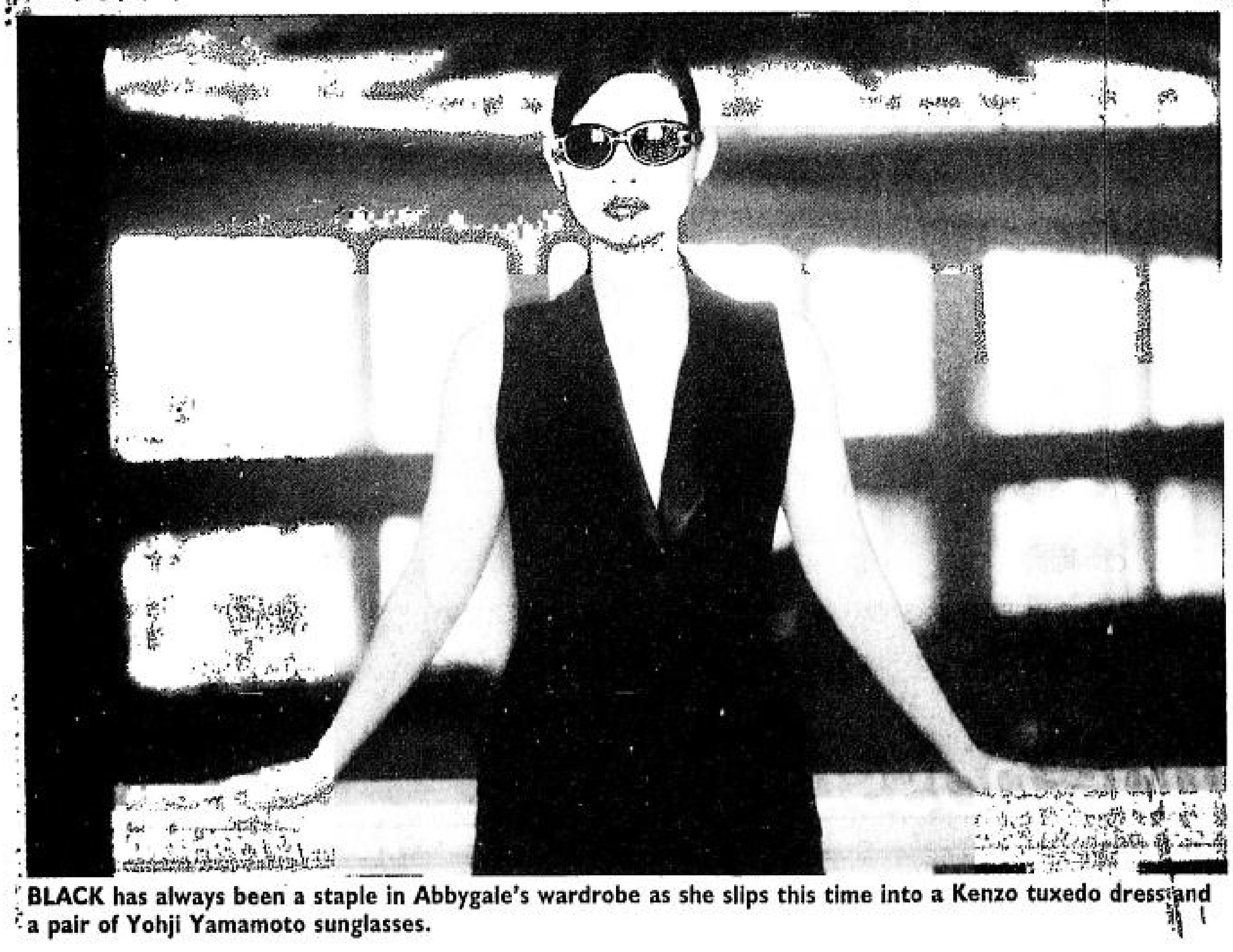
These days, Abbygale prefers the tailored look to soft, romantic lines that were de rigueur during her beauty queen days. She makes it a point to wear a typical three-piece business outfit consisting of a blazer, pencil-cut skirt and blouse whenever she conducts image-enhancement seminars for corporate clients. She develops and executes the courses, while business partner Claro Pinangay takes care of the company's finances (tel. 817-6807 and 818-1718).

Second career

"My days as a beauty queen and model are over," she says, "but some people still expect me to dress the part. I'm more at ease wearing blazers and pantsuits nowadays."

Interestingly, she stumbled upon a second career in 1997 during her reign as Binibining Pilipinas-Universe. Part of her responsibilities was to conduct Avon makeup demos to women in various parts of the country. "It must be the teacher in me," she says. "I discovered that I love to share my knowledge with other people."

FIVE-FOOT-NINE-INCH-TALL Abby pairs a mauve halter with a pair of electric-pleated chiffon pants that dates back to 1992, her first trip to the US to compete in the Supermodel of the World.



BLACK has always been a staple in Abbygale's wardrobe as she slips this time into a Kenzo tuxedo dress and a pair of Yohji Yamamoto sunglasses.

Not that Abbygale was never a party animal, but she seldom does the social scene these days. During the rare times she does, they're usually events related to husband Jun de Leon's job as a photographer. She graced the launching of his most recent photo exhibit several months ago with son Irijah.

"I'd rather wear T-shirts, a pair of shorts and rubber shoes on Sundays," she says. "But I usually wear backless outfits for those evening affairs."

Not that De Leon minds. In fact, he even encourages his wife to be more daring by trying on new looks. Since the ace lensman is exposed to the fashion biz, he even dishes out unsolicited advice to his wife on the latest trends in hair, makeup and accessories.

"He likes me all dolled up," says Abbygale. "I've never considered myself a trophy wife. Whenever we're together, believe it or not, it's still Jun who gets noticed."

Having been exposed to the business, Abbygale has little reason to keep an eye out on her husband. Because he's a photographer, she says, being surrounded by lovely women comes with the territory. "I'm not the jealous type," she declares. "Jun hasn't given me any reasons to think otherwise. It's just a job for him. Besides, he's way past that stage.

"It helps," she adds, "that I was a former fashion model. If I were in a different profession, I'd probably think differently."

Not immune

Despite her years on the ramp, Abbygale, 27, hasn't always been immune to fashion faux pas. Rather than dwell on them, however, she has learned well from her mistakes as she now tries to share some sound and practical advice to friends and clients.

Abbygale emphasizes, for instance, the importance of having a basic wardrobe before you start experimenting. In other words, you must know the rules first before you can start breaking them. She also stresses the need to be practical whenever you do your shopping.

"Don't buy any thing you can't mix and match with at least two to three items in your wardrobe," she says. "And never leave the store without trying on a particular piece. No matter how expensive or how good the fabric is, if the fit is wanting then forget it."

When will they ever learn? A lot of women still buy clothes on impulse. To avoid ending up with identical items, check your closet every six months or before trooping to the mall to shop for clothes. "You'll be surprised to find out that you already have two to three items that are the same, if not similar," she says.

Finally, don't ever tire of going to those out-of-the-way places in search of a good buy. Even a fashion plate like Abbygale Arenas-de Leon always makes it a point to go to thrift shops whenever she flies with the family to the United States. Who knows what one-of-a-kind body-hugging finds are waiting out there to be discovered?

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

SHE goes mannish in a Giorgio Armani tuxedo shirt and a pair of stripped denim pants she found in her husband's closet.

whole new world

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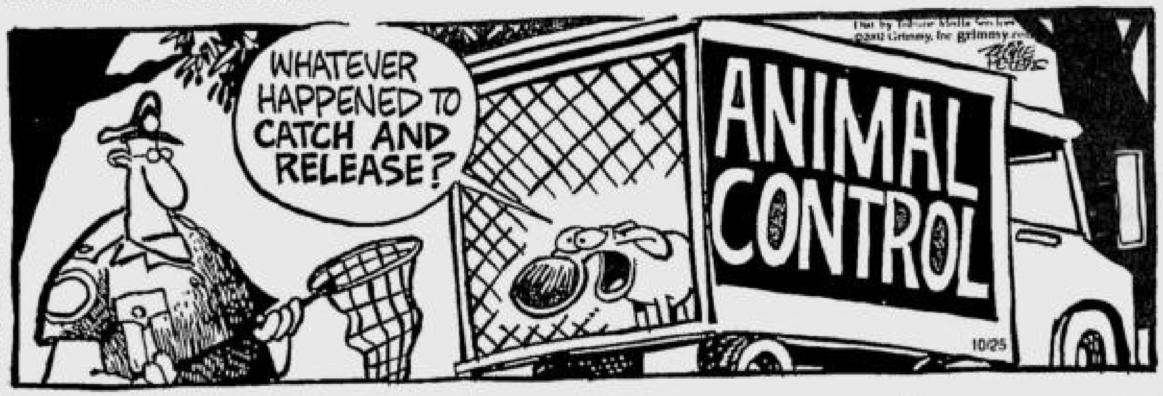
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

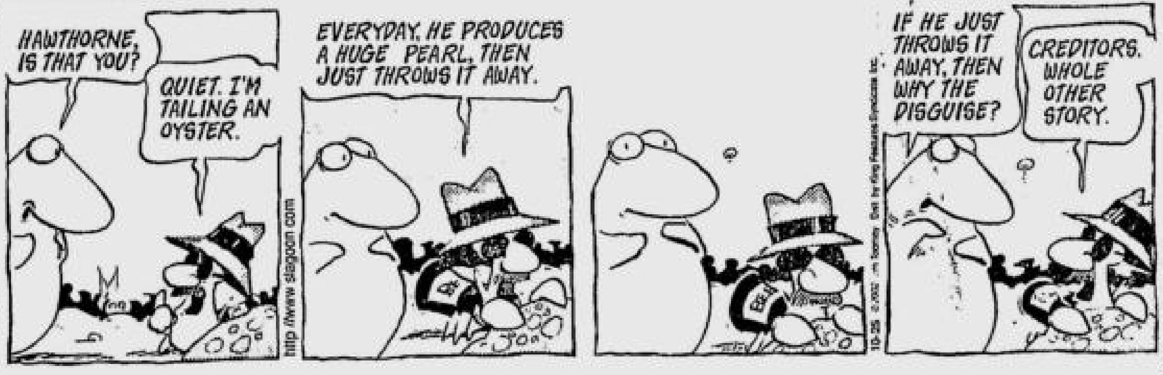
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CATCH AND RELEASE?
ANIMAL CONTROL
10/25

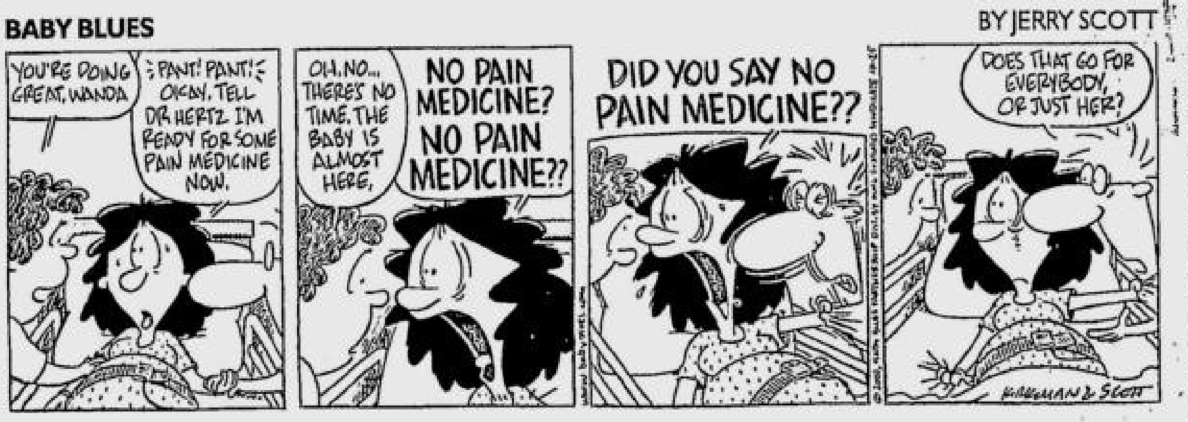
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAWTHORNE, IS THAT YOU?
QUIET. I'M TAILING AN OYSTER.
EVERYDAY, HE PRODUCES A HUGE PEARL, THEN JUST THROWS IT AWAY.
IF HE JUST THROWS IT AWAY, THEN WHY THE DISGUISE?
CREDITORS. WHOLE OTHER STORY.
http://www.slagoon.com

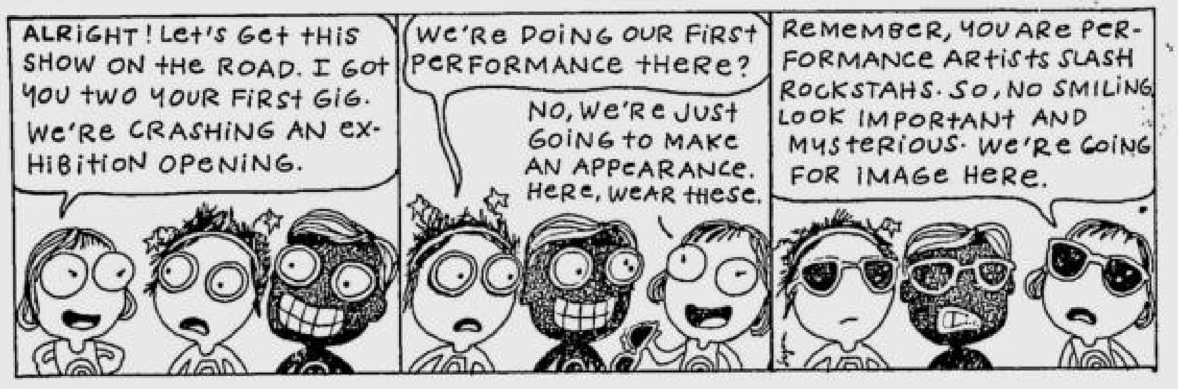
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU'RE DOING GREAT, WANDA
PANT! PANT! OKAY. TELL DR HERTZ I'M READY FOR SOME PAIN MEDICINE NOW.
OH, NO... THERE'S NO TIME. THE BABY IS ALMOST HERE.
NO PAIN MEDICINE? NO PAIN MEDICINE??
DID YOU SAY NO PAIN MEDICINE??
DOES THAT GO FOR EVERYBODY, OR JUST HER?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ALRIGHT! Let's Get this SHOW on the ROAD. I Got you two your First Gig. We're CRASHING AN exhibition OPENING.
We're DOING OUR FIRST PERFORMANCE there?
NO, We're JUST GOING to MAKE AN APPEARANCE. Here, WEAR these.
ReMEMBER, YOU ARE PERFORMANCE ARtists SLASH ROCKSTAHS. SO, NO SMILING. LOOK IMPORTANT AND MYSTERIOUS. We're GOING FOR IMAGE Here.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tony Franciosa, Minnie Pearl, Jon Anderson, Helen Reddy

Happy Birthday: You'll be quick with your decisions and focused on getting ahead this year. This can be a highly successful year for you as long as you don't become sidetracked along the way. Pace yourself. You can expect to receive some of the recognition and praise you've been trying so hard to achieve. Your numbers are 6, 13, 17, 24, 33, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be quick-witted and charming, which will aid you in obtaining allies. Friends and relatives will give you good advice. Listen to what they have to say. Romance can be exciting if you are spontaneous.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be concerned with legal matters and formulating contracts rather than finalizing objectives. Don't get ahead of yourself; take it one step at a time. Make sure you concentrate when operating machinery.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do not try to manipulate emotional situations. Observe for now and don't let your feelings rule you. You can enjoy entertainment if you follow the crowd for a change.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There will be hidden matters that you may find disturbing. Don't be afraid to speak in the defense of others. It's time for the truth to come out and you are the one to take charge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should get some of your self-esteem back if you get involved in organizational functions. Your capabilities will be highlighted. You can meet new friends who will appreciate your skills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you address those in a position to grant you favors, you should get the support you require. You will be able to enlist the help of colleagues who believe in your ideas. You will be able to quickly implement your ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may want to look into warm vacation destinations. They will be rejuvenating for both body and spirit. Take a break with the ones you love. You can quit bad habits if you put your mind to it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be prepared to counteract the damage that adversaries are about to create. You will have to keep your wits about you. Be sure that you can trust those you confide in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can take advantage of opportunities if you are quick to make a move. Weigh all the options available and be decisive. Your self-confidence will attract members of the opposite sex.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make financial gains through your unique and creative approach to business. Move forward with your plans. This is not the time to be indecisive.

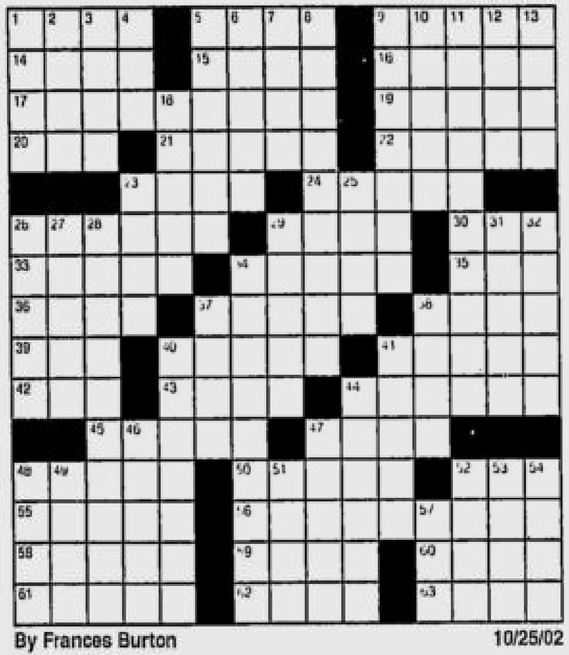
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need a break from your usual routine and an outlet for your imagination. You will find that children will intrigue you and lead you into creative projects.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may experience emotional setbacks if you and your mate don't see things eye to eye. Don't worry about these issues right now. Avoid senseless arguments; time will give resolution.

Birthday Baby: You will be eager to learn and easily bored. You will be determined to do your own thing and will jump from one thing to the next without much thought. You will be creative, charismatic and into whatever is new and exciting.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

10/25/02

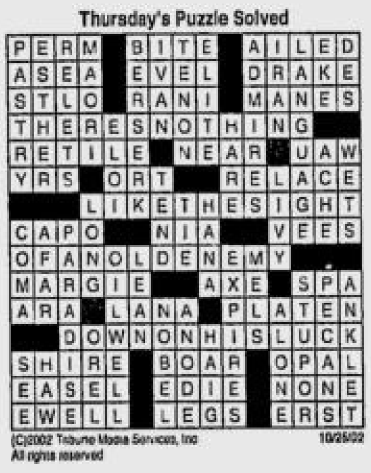
ACROSS

1 Napoleon's 1814 address
5 Apt. manager
9 Pie nut
14 British trunk
15 Manchurian border river
16 Make amends
17 Specific breed of foot soldier?
19 Avoids
20 Pigs' digs
21 Atelier stand
22 Epic tales
23 That girl's
24 Jungle vine
26 City south of Roma
29 Half a peal?
30 Slugger's stat.
33 Bottomless pit
34 Hindu social system
35 Get hitched
36 Dyeing containers
37 Walk-on part
38 Washed-out
39 Ordinal ending
40 Elizabeth and Robert
41 Guy
42 August sign
43 Building wings
44 Snow units
45 Japanese-American
47 Writer Bellow
48 Cubic meter
50 Iridescent gems
52 Bath place
55 Stratum
56 Specific species of shrew?
58 Looks __ everything
59 Cogito __ sum
60 Son of Seth
61 Military installations
62 Viewed
63 Brooding place

DOWN

1 Flows back
2 Plunder
3 Squarish
4 Had a bite
5 Serengeti trek
6 New England sch.
7 Brownish purple
8 Latticework structures
9 Transit
10 "__ Frome"
11 Footway specifically for pumas?
12 O'Neill play, "__ Christie"
13 Scottish loch
18 Lively dances
23 "Bonanza" character
25 Hooked on
26 Orange variety
27 Slacken
28 Monty's throw of the dice, specifically?
29 Titled ladies
31 Strait of __ Isle
32 Brainstorms
34 Steam-whistle instruments
37 Old king of rhyme
38 Toll
40 Dry expanses
41 Turn red
44 Bird of prey
46 Dancing Castle
47 Casual military address
48 Thick slice
49 Skater Lipinski
51 Father of France
52 Pitchfork prong
53 ET vehicles
54 Outdo
57 Sebaceous cyst

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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R	E	T	I	L	E		N	E	A	R		U	A	W
Y	R	S		O	R	T			R	E	L	A	C	E
			L	I	K	E	T	H	E	S	I	G	H	T
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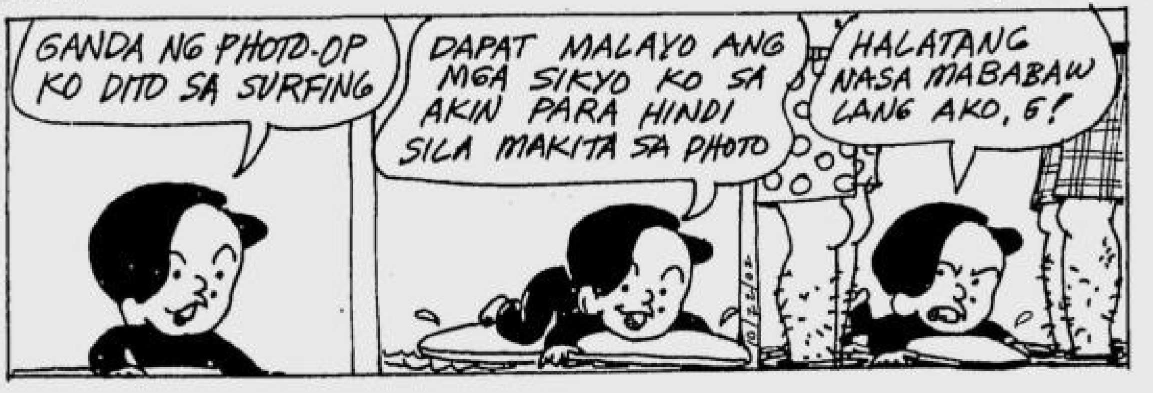
10/25/02

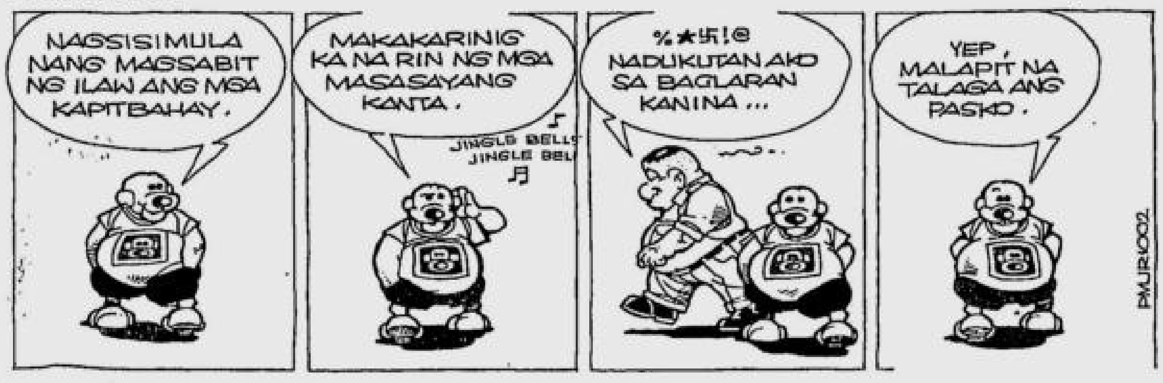
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GANDA NG PHOTO-OP KO DITO SA SURFING
DAPAT MALAYO ANG MGA SIKYO KO SA AKIN PARA HINDI SILA MAKITA SA PHOTO
HALATANG NASA MABABAW LANG AKO, 6!

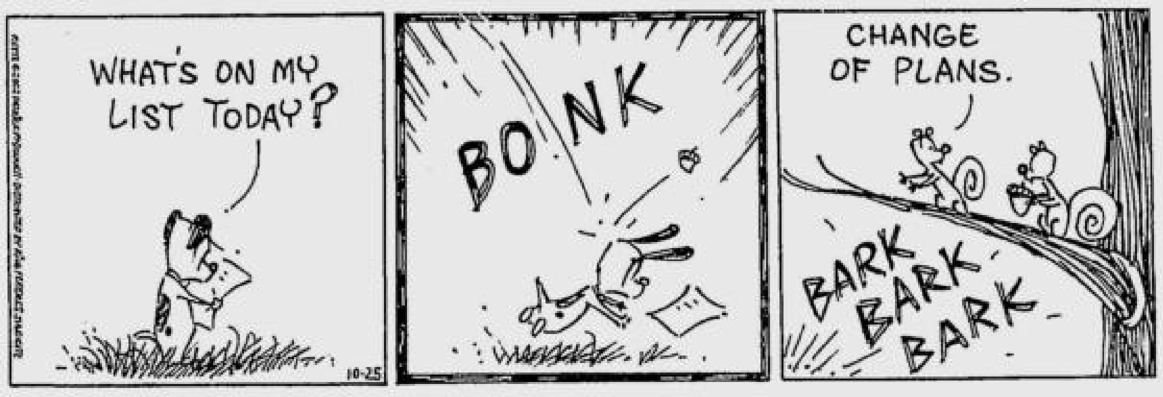
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGSISIMULA NANG MAGSABIT NG ILAW ANG MGA KAPITBAHAY.
MAKAKARINIG KA NA RIN NG MGA MASASAYANG KANTA.
JINGLE BELL JINGLE BEL
%★卐!@ NADUKUTAN AKO SA BAGLARAN KANINA...
YEP, MALAPIT NA TALAGA ANG PASKO.
PMJR1002

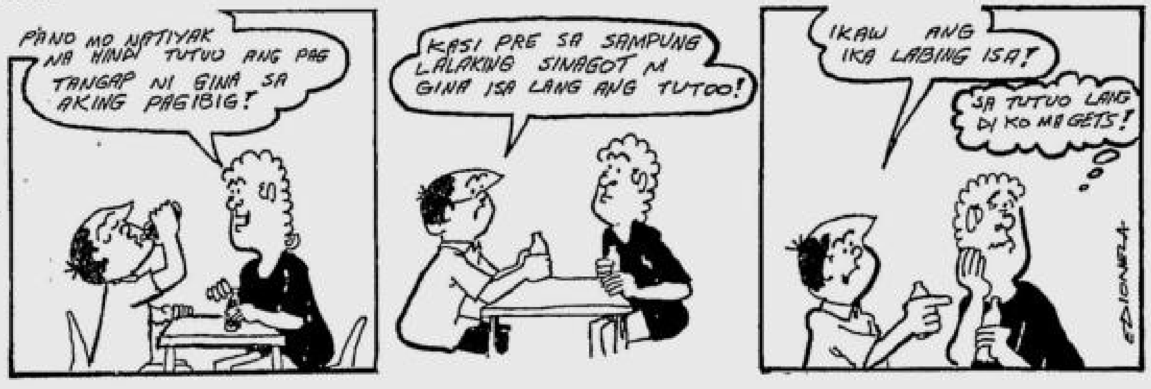
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY LIST TODAY?
BONK
CHANGE OF PLANS.
BARK BARK BARK
10-25

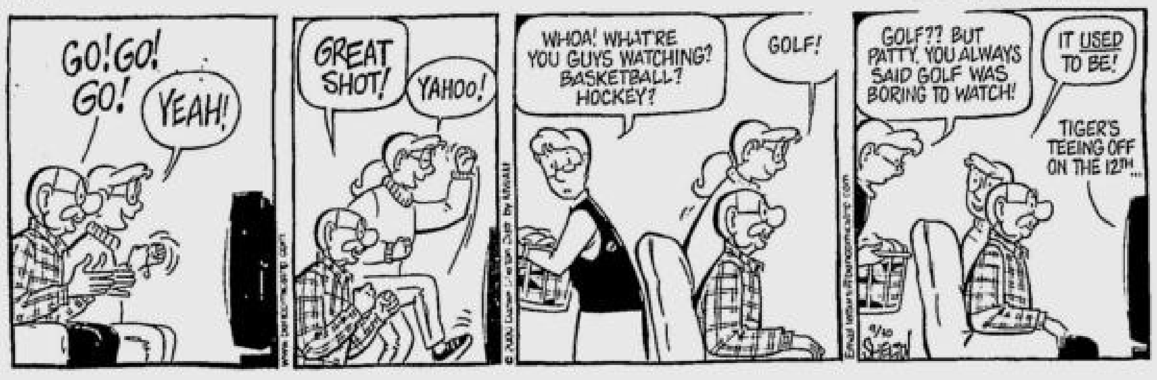
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PANO MO NATIYAK NA HINDI TUTUO ANG PAG TANGAP NI GINA SA AKING PAGIBIG?
KASI PRE SA SAMPUNG LALAKING SINAGOT NI GINA ISA LANG ANG TUTOO!
IKAW ANG IKA LABING ISA?
SA TUTUO LANG DI KO MAGETS!
EDIONELA

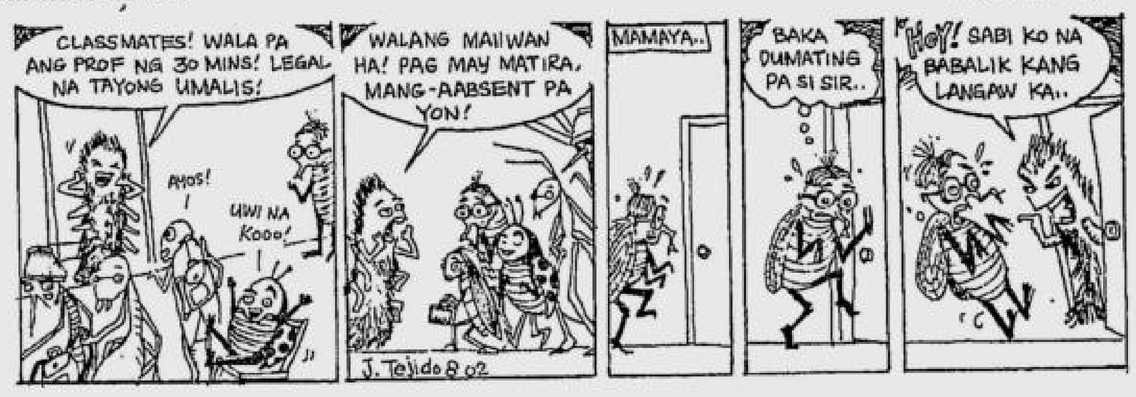
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GO! GO! GO!
YEAH!
GREAT SHOT!
YAHOO!
WHOA! WHAT'RE YOU GUYS WATCHING? BASKETBALL? HOCKEY?
GOLF!
GOLF?? BUT PATTY, YOU ALWAYS SAID GOLF WAS BORING TO WATCH!
IT USED TO BE!
TIGER'S TEEING OFF ON THE 12TH...

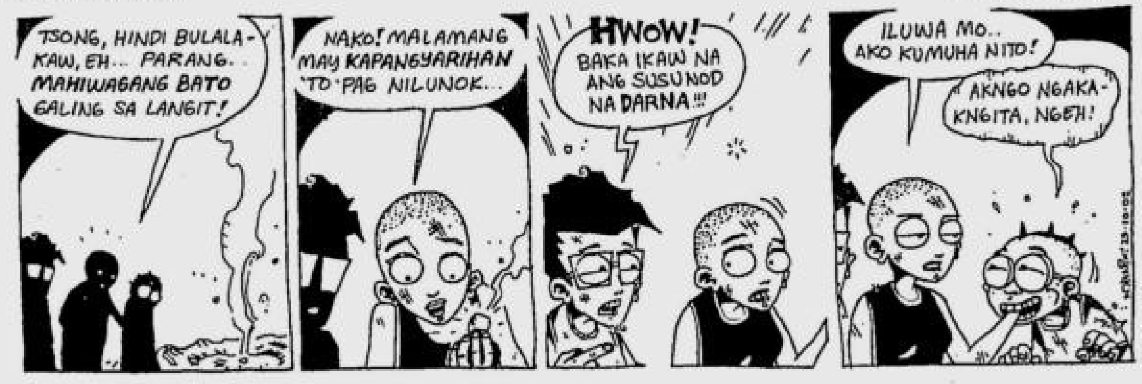
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


CLASSMATES! WALA PA ANG PROF NG 30 MINS! LEGAL NA TAYONG UMALIS!
AYOS!
UWI NA KOOO!
WALANG MAIIWAN HA! PAG MAY MATIRA, MANG-AABSENT PA YON!
J. Tejido 8 02
MAMAYA..
BAKA DUMATING PA SI SIR..
HOY! SABI KO NA BABALIK KANG LANGAW KA..

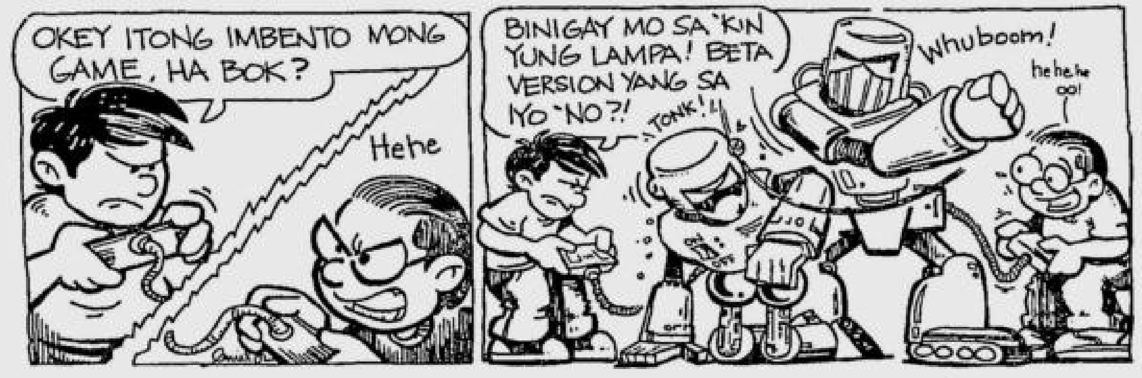
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, HINDI BULALAKAW, EH... PARANG... MAHIWAGANG BATO GALING SA LANGIT!
NAKO! MALAMANG MAY KAPANGYARIHAN 'TO PAG NILUNOK...
HWOW! BAKA IKAW NA ANG SUSUNOD NA DARNA!!!
ILUWA MO.. AKO KUMUHA NITO!
AKNGO NGAKAKNGITA, NGEH!

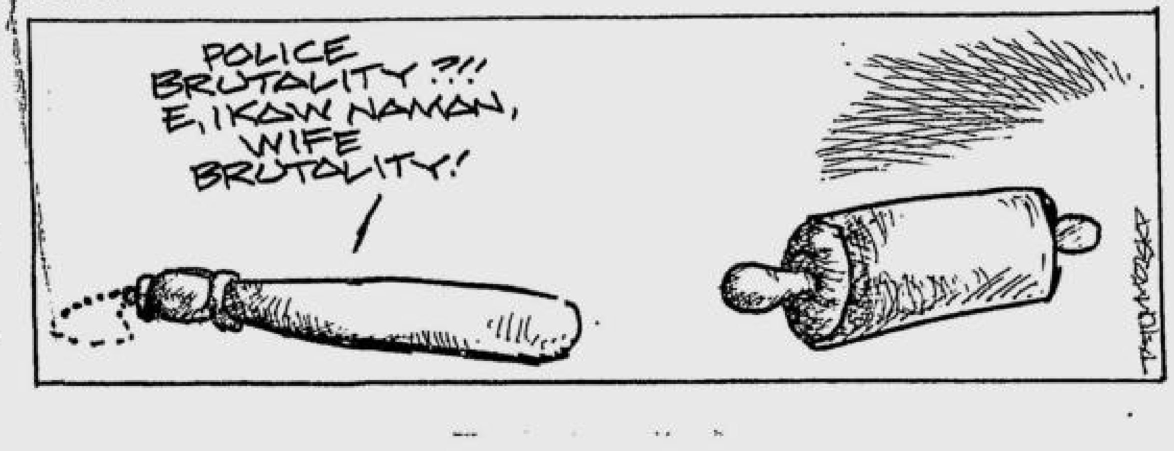
GENG'S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO


OKEY ITONG IMBENTO MONG GAME, HA BOK?
Hehe
BINIGAY MO SA 'KIN YUNG LAMPA! BETA VERSION YANG SA IYO 'NO?!
TONK!
Whuboom!
hehehe oo!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


POLICE BRUTALITY ?!! E, IKAW NAMAN, WIFE BRUTALITY!

SCHWARZKOPF PHILIPPINES HAIRDRESSING AWARD WINNERS. Philippine Hairdresser of the Year and Avant-Garde champion Danny Katalbas (third from left) with (from left) David Salon's Mar Montuya, Commercial Style winner; the Emphasis Salon team, Best Creative Salon; Jason Banares (sixth from left) of Cris Estalilla Salon, Young Artist of the Year; and Saga Salon's John Magno, Men's Style champ

Winners of hairdressing awards named

SCHWARZKOPF recently declared the winners of the Philippine Hairdressing Awards (PHA) 2002 at the Mandarin Oriental Ballroom.

The big winner of the night was veteran hairstylist Danny Katalbas of Emphasis Salon, who was adjudged Philippine Hairdresser of the Year 2002 and champion of the Avant-Garde category. Hanz Schwarzkopf and Henkel for Asia-Pacific managing director Tony Hasham and Top Style Marketing Inc. GM Cora del Rosario presented him the award.

Aside from the P10,000 travel voucher he received for winning in the avant-garde category, Katalbas also received an additional P15,000, a free trip to Hong Kong (including accommodations) to compete in the coming Asia Hairdressing Awards (AHA) 2003 in Hong Kong, a special set of makeup from MAC Cosmetics (official makeup sponsor of the PHA) and a trophy.

Katalbas is also a member of the Emphasis group that won the new Best Creative Salon Team title. He joined Lourd Ryan Ramos, Joseph Claravall and Glenn Roxas in receiving the title from Del Rosario and Schwarzkopf regional marketing planning manager Corinna Freund.

Ace photographer Jun De Leon and Del Rosario presented the Commercial Style trophy to Mar Montoya of David's Salon (SM Pampanga), while Abbygale Arenas and Alex Carbonell handed the Men's Style award to John Magno of Saga Salon. Preview editor in chief Pauline Suaco-Juan and Renante Cobcobo awarded the Young Artist of the Year title to Jason Batiares of Cris Estalilla Salon.

All category winners received a P10,000 travel voucher, a makeup set from MAC Cosmetics and a free trip to Hong Kong to compete in the AHA. The champions of the regional tilt will then receive a trophy and a free invitation to the special AHA Finalists Only seminar. The Asia Hairdresser of the Year will take home a trophy and will have the chance to attend the British Hairdressing Awards ceremony in London as a special guest of Schwarzkopf.

Meanwhile, Hasham lauded this year's entries. "Some of them are the best I've seen in the world. Filipino hairdressers have truly shown their creativity, passion and dedication in their craft," he said.

Prior to the announcement of winners, Malaysia's Hair Impression team showcased their cutting-edge and trendsetting creations in a special hair show. The team likewise presented their interpretations of Schwarzkopf's Essential Looks 2002, with the models' makeup courtesy of MAC Cosmetics, the official makeup sponsor of PHA 2002.

Also displaying his own creativity in a special segment during the program was former Philippine Hairdresser of the Year Nikki Bacay. (He likewise presented the Avant Garde trophy to Katalbas together with veteran hairdresser Angelo Justin.)

Entertaining the crowd with her stand-up comedic performance was Candy Pangilinan, while TV personality Paolo Bediones took care of the hosting chores for the evening.

Now on its third year, the PHA was launched simultaneously with the AHA to recognize, honor and reward exemplary skill in the industry.

WINNING entry of Emphasis Salon's Danny Katalbas

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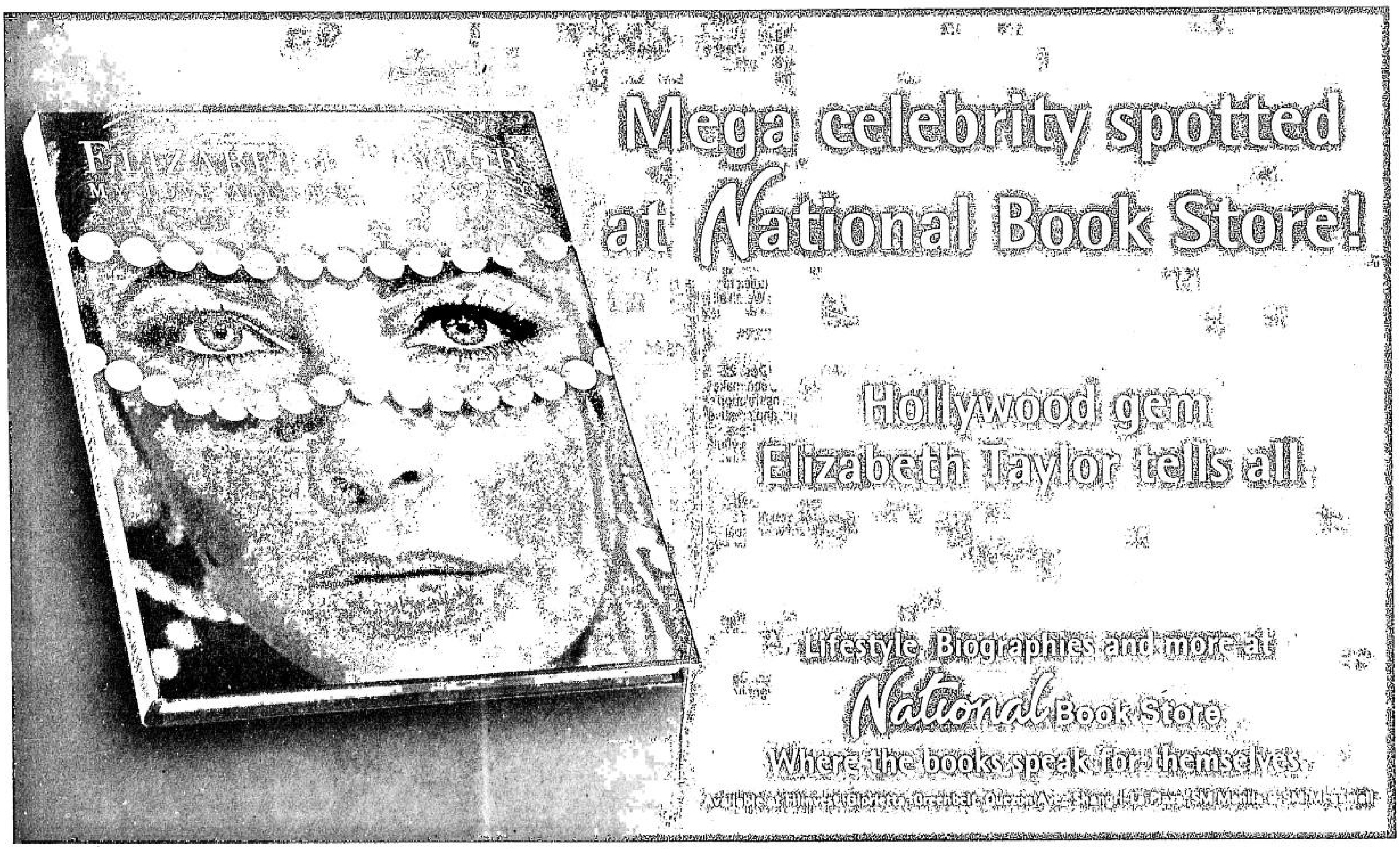
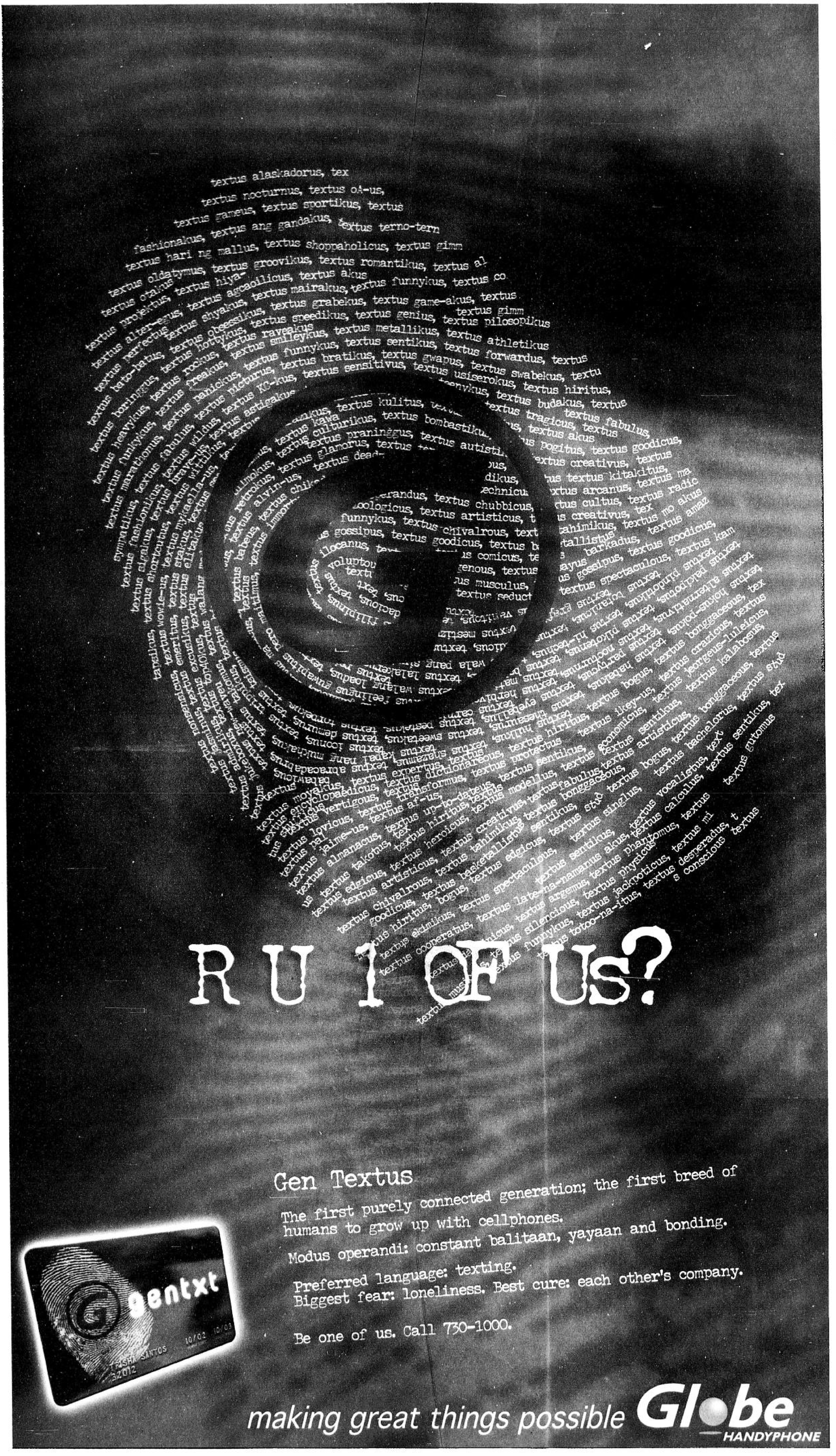

Mega celebrity spotted at National Book Store!
Hollywood gem Elizabeth Taylor tells all
Lifestyle, Biographies and more at
National Book Store
Where the books speak for themselves
[illegible]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LIFESTYLE

Home

ETRUSCAN-INSPIRED vases come in two to achieve symmetry.

Iconolatry at one address

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

MIKE Pizarro's two-bedroom pad in New Manila is like one movable feast where accent pieces, curtains and slip-on furniture covers undergo change at least three times a year, depending on the "season." His pre-holiday pieces, for instance, will soon make way for the Nativity scene as he starts counting the days to Christmas a week from now.

Pizarro's fondness for religious images is very much evident in a number of pieces displayed in the living room. A wooden sculpture of St. Peter's head is grouped together with other sacred images such as a cross and halo on top of one of several *narra* cabinets. Some pieces are hand-me-downs, while others have been sourced from various parts of the country. A crucifix made of *kamagong* and accented with silver filigree came from the built-in chapel of an old house in Nueva Ecija.

"I'm not particular about an object's age," says the native of Orion, Bataan. "I buy things because they make me feel good. Religious images bring back pleasant memories. They remind me of the Holy Weeks I've spent with family and friends back home."

Resident floral manager

He credits such supposedly solemn occasions for initiating him into the world of interior design. As the family's resident floral arranger, he has been in charge of sprucing up three of the clan's religious images during the town's annual Holy Week procession.

"It's also a time for reunions," says Pizarro, who makes it a point to drop everything and troop back to his ancestral home come Holy Week. "I never saw my job as a chore."

Thus, Pizarro's flair as a flower arranger comes to the fore in the way he spruces up each vase in the living room with dozens upon dozens of white roses. Urns and flower vases of various shapes and inspirations compete for every available space. He manages to avoid clutter through symmetry and plain common sense. Every old cabinet in the house, for instance, doubles as a storage space for a specific set of items related to his profession.

A big cabinet contains glossy books about interior design, while a smaller chest is used to store various curtains and linen. Even the space underneath the divan is lined with several movable cabinets containing accent pieces. "It pays to invest in cabinets especially when you live in a small house," says Pizarro, who also teaches at the Philippine School of Interior Design. "Apartments normally don't come with plenty of built-in storage spaces."

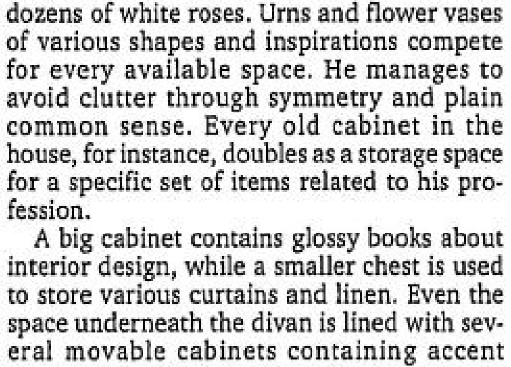
Furniture pieces with hints of color and floral prints will soon turn into an all-white affair in keeping with a subdued holiday feel.

Easy changing

Thanks to slip-on covers, Pizarro can easily change the living room's look in an hour or so without discarding a single piece of furniture. "Some pieces," he says, "have to be retired temporarily until I find an ideal use for them in future seasons."

Despite the presence of numerous cabinets, however, none of them is big enough to store certain furniture and accent pieces. That's why he often finds himself being driven by his brother in the family's pickup truck to Orion to

ICONOLATRY/ p.E6



A BUNCH of white roses tempers the warm, rustic feel imparted by a mishmash of items in the living room.

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Onion Bulb White TLC PRICE P26.00/kg.
Honey Mandarin Oranges TLC PRICE P77.00/kg.
BIG MAMA Pork Cubes TLC PRICE P118.00/kg. Reg. Price 126.00
Kangkong TLC PRICE P19.00/kg.
KIKKOMAN Teriyaki Marinade Sauce 500 mL TLC PRICE P63.00 ea. Reg. Price 68.75

KIKKOMAN
GINGER TERIYAKI FISH FILLET

Ingredients:

1/2 kilo fresh thawed fish fillets (lapu-lapu or gindara)
1/4 cup KIKKOMAN TERIYAKI MARINADE
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
1 tsp. sugar
1 tbsp. slivered fresh ginger root
1 pc. large green onion and top, cut into 1 inch lengths
1/3 cup water
1 1/2 tsps. cornstarch

Procedure:

Place fillets in single layer in shallow baking pan. Combine teriyaki marinade, oil and sugar, pour over fish. Turn fillets over to coat well. Marinate for 1 hour turning fish occasionally. If fillets are very thin, marinate for only 30 minutes. Sprinkle ginger and green onions evenly over each fillet. Bake in marinade at 350°F, 6 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with fork. Remove to serving platter and keep warm. Reserve 1/4 cup of the pan juices. Blend water and cornstarch in small saucepan. Stir in reserved pan juices. Cook until mixture boils and thickens. To serve, spoon sauce over fish. Serves 4.

Alternative method:
Pan fry until desired doneness.

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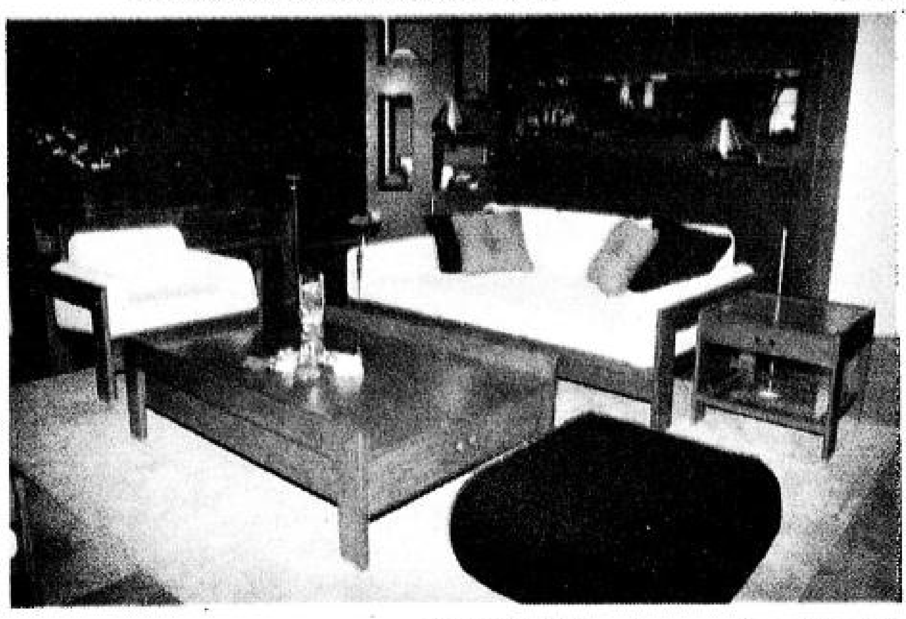
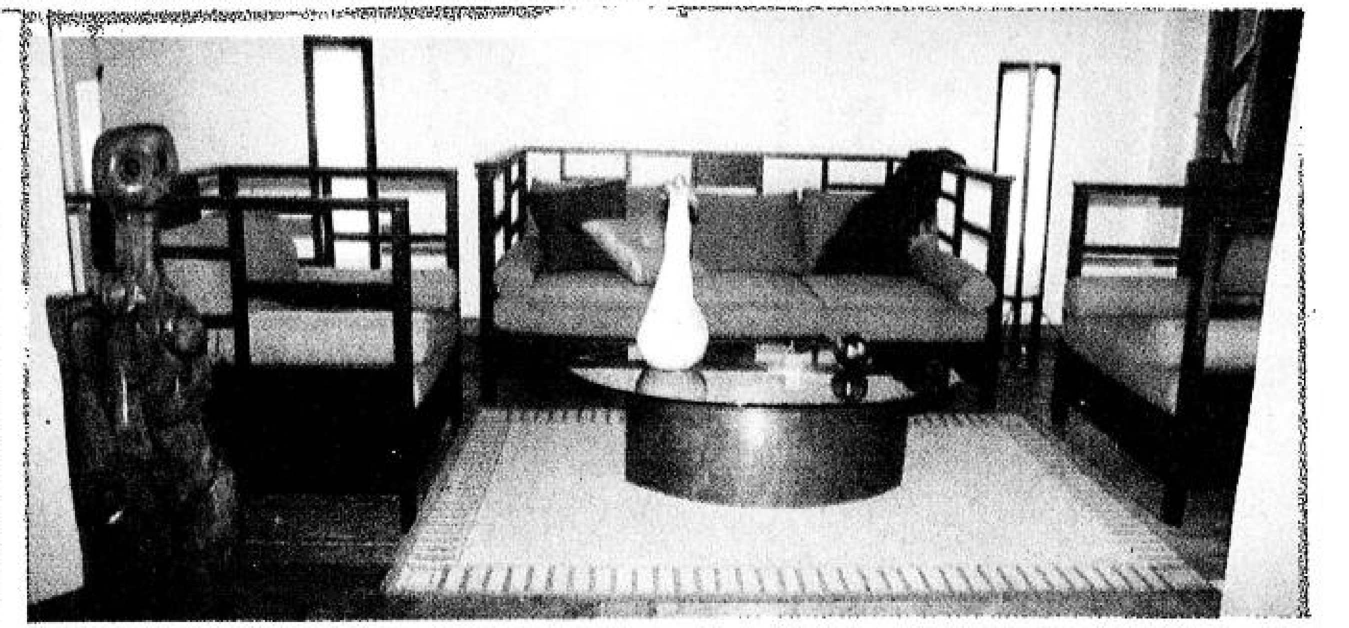


BASTIANO living showcase in solid *narra* with Ifugao footstool

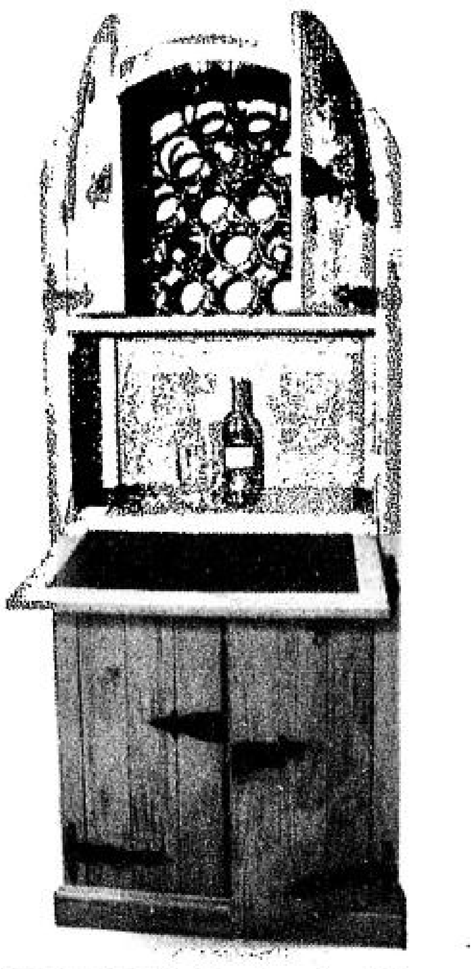


HARRINGTON sofa set in dark mahogany finish, ellipse coffee table in metal with glasstop, Westbury floor lamp

Old furniture habits die hard

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Betoy Johnson

Under a new helm, Habitat has continued the Old World flavor of its furniture, without however lagging behind in design currency



THE ESCAFARO, first introduced by Habitat in the early '70s

IT HAS been 27 years since Alexander Lacson Jr. opened Habitat, The Lifestyle Center, a boutique furniture store that has gained a loyal and steady upscale following.

The old man initially came out with classic wood furniture pieces, designing traditional, contemporary, country and modern fixtures. Since his death two years ago, a new skipper has been sailing the ship he built.

Christopher Paris Lacson had been living in the United States for 20 years when his father passed away. Determined to carry on the Habitat tradition of unique yet sturdy furniture pieces, he came back to the country and took on the demanding job as president and art director. He has set up a new furniture division for the E-generation, Atalyer.

Not that designing is new to this affable man. Lacson discovered his passion for making things as early as when he was 6 years old, when he developed an addiction to Lego blocks.

"If I had toys, I took it apart and made something new out of it," he says.

At 10, he won his first award in the arts in a contest held by Moonbeam Magazine. Small wonder then that Lacson took up architecture in college, and now also holds degrees in industrial and auto designs. He has designed wheelchairs, watches, lighting and home interiors.

"The inspiration for my [furniture] designs varies—from flipping through magazines, from my staff or out of nowhere," he says.

Today, the store has expanded to a full range of furniture materials such as metal, stone, glass and the indigenous. Located at Pines corner Sheridan Streets, Mandaluyong City, the Habitat showroom is comprised of the Main Gallery that features the latest lines, the East Gallery that houses the all-time favorite classics, and The Loft for accessories and artworks. The store specializes in bedroom, living room and dining room fixtures.

One of a kind

Lacson says the Habitat is the place for people who go for one-of-a-kind design, furniture that is not mass-produced. If exclusivity is what a client wants, Lacson recommends Atalyer.

Everything comes with a price, of course, as the Habitat generally caters to the B, upper B and A markets.

"You just don't walk into, say, SM Megamall and find these pieces," he says.

For the Habitat 2002 Exhibit, new lines are conceptualized and launched by Lacson. A slightly Oriental flavor is the Harrington Line that carries, among others, open lattice designs, an ultra-deep lounge sofa that doubles as daybed, and a cabinet-like "footboard" that houses a small TV.

The Yin Line comes in stark white, black and red, with a coffee table that has cushions to sit on, ideal for small condominiums and apartments. The exhibit also revisits the Classic Line for that formal yet laid-back feel, timeless pieces dating 27 years ago. Included are the Bastiano sofa set for that formal yet laid-back ambience; the masculine lines of the Dunville dining and bedroom sets; and the Zao Yang dining set, carefully cut like a tailored suit with steel table and chairs.

Geometric purity

Lacson's baby, of course, is the Atalyer division, with modern lines that fuse stainless steel, assorted metals, wood, rattan and leather. It is here where one can find the Filipino's answer to the Lazy Boy in the Cartel Wing Chair, which is equipped with flat panel speakers and built-in amplifier.

The Arden Line gleams with geometric purity in stainless steel and impeccable finish.

"The taste in furniture is changing, and so are the perceptions. The younger generation, especially, wants something suitable to their lifestyle so they go for the Atalyer," Lacson says.

At The Loft are accessories such as the colorful Yin and Yang candleholders called Lovelites, desks, consoles, TV cabinets, the Filmore Line of sofas and armchairs—at prices that are easy on the pocket.

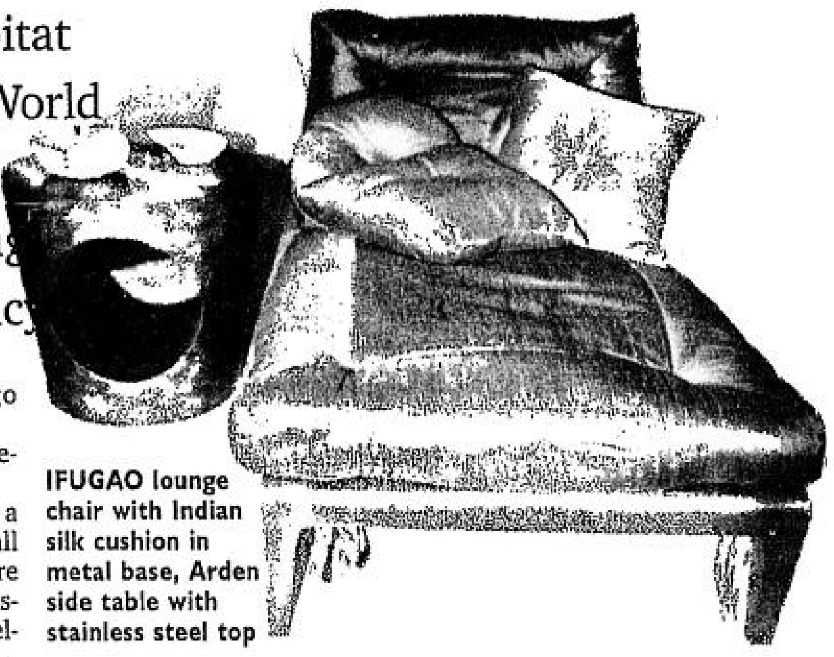
There's the interesting *vargueño*, a copy of a 500-year-old design with several small drawers in various sizes located within its door. Lacson says it was the old days' version of the laptop as men used to carry around this heavy furniture to their master's trips abroad, stacking papers and documents inside its drawers.

"We have the largest furniture collection in the industry, bar none," says Lacson.

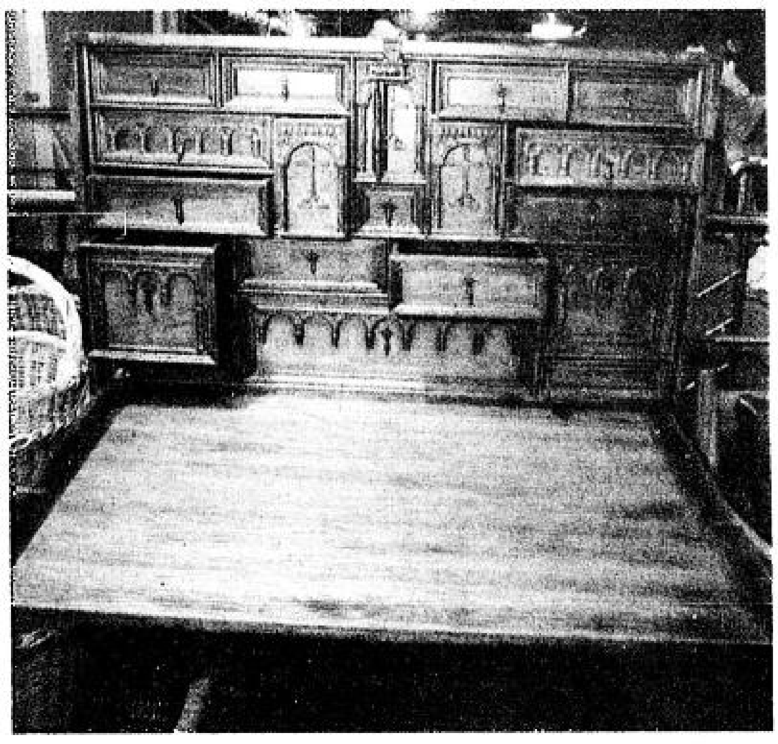
Indeed, designs for the past 27 years, each neatly tucked in a catalog, can still be had on a special-order basis. Clients get to choose the color, wood and fabric, and in two to three months, their orders will be delivered. That's the Habitat's way of preserving the old man's legacy.

Call Habitat, The Lifestyle Center at 636-5141/4115.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

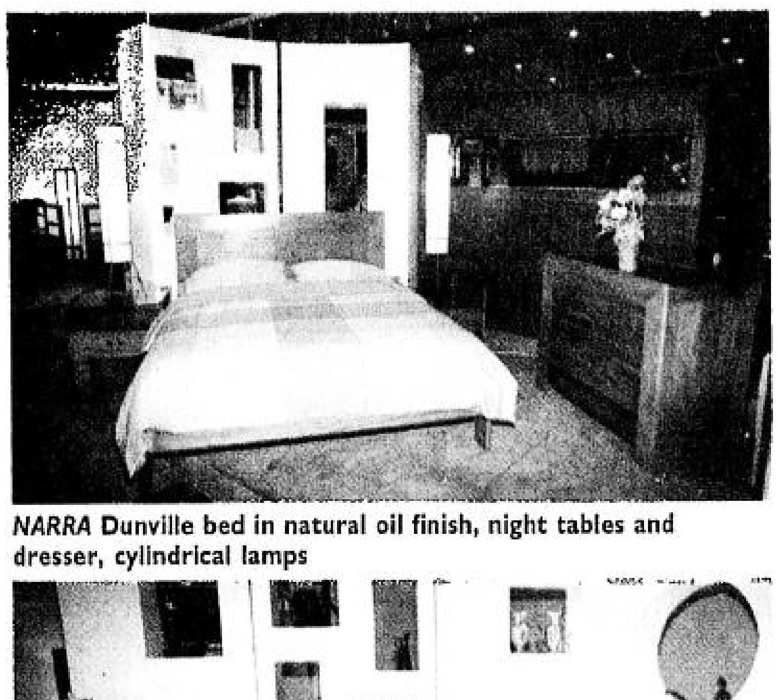


IFUGAO lounge chair with Indian silk cushion in metal base, Arden side table with stainless steel top

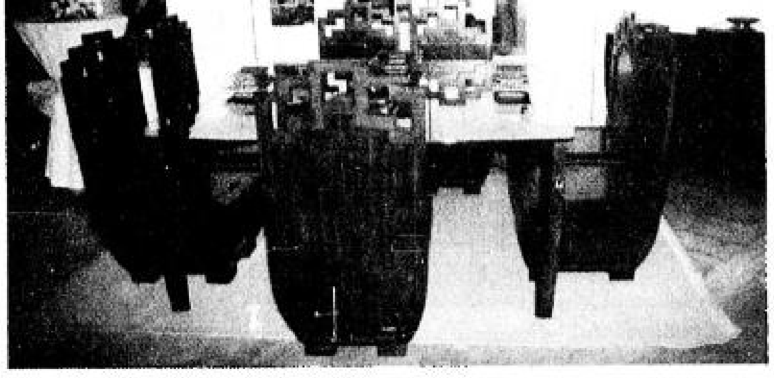


THE CLASSIC
Spanish *vargueño* in mahogany

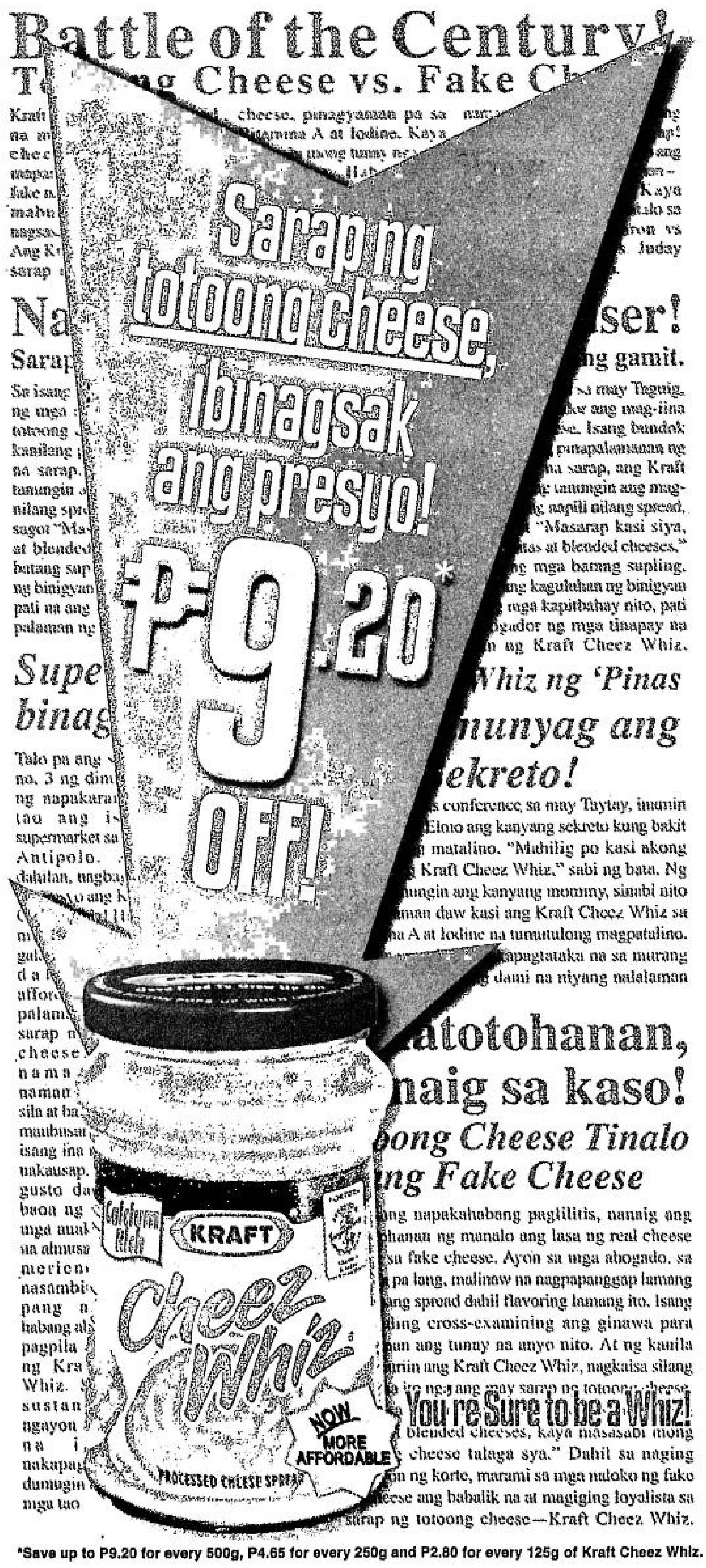
CHRISTOPHER
Paris Lacson



NARRA Dunville bed in natural oil finish, night tables and dresser, cylindrical lamps



ORIENTAL Classic's Zao Yang dining set for eight



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UP Masscom updates alumni directory

GOINGS ON

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Mass Communication (CMC) in Diliman, QC, is currently updating its alumni directory in preparation for the grand homecoming, "An Affair in November," the culminating activity of a week-long college celebration Nov. 18-23. Activities during the week are open to alumni, students and the general public. Deadline for submission of alumni information is today. Alumni may register online at www.upd.edu.ph/~cmc/homecoming.htm or fax to 926-3465.

HOMECOMING. The UP College of Business Administration in Diliman will hold its 2002 alumni homecoming at 10 a.m. on Dec. 1. The honoree classes are BSBAA and BSBA Classes 1970 to 1979; Golden Jubilarians (Class 1952), Ruby Jubilarians (Class 1963), Silver Jubilarians (Class 1977) and the 1970-1979 MBA and DBA/Ph.D. Dr. Erlina Echanis, college dean, is also inviting the different batches to send their nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Send your nominations to the Dean's Office today. Call 928-4571 to -75.

BAZAAR. The Women's Board of the St. Luke's Medical Center holds its annual Christmas bazaar at the Greenhills Shopping Center on Nov. 9 and 10, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Shoppers can choose from a variety of items. Proceeds from the annual Christmas bazaars help to defray expenses for chemotherapy sessions, X-ray and ultrasound procedures, laboratory tests, and sometimes pharmaceutical and food needs of the indigent. Prizes will be raffled at regular intervals during the two-day bazaar, with the grand prize—a round-trip tickets to the US courtesy of Northwest Airlines-highlighting the second day. Prizes also include round-trip tickets for two to Cebu and Davao, courtesy of Cebu Pacific; SLMC executive check-up certificates; dinner certificates and other attractive prizes. Call 647-1424 or 911-4634.

WORKSHOP. International lecturer Jaime Licauco and beauty and wellness icon Cory Quirino team up for the first time to conduct a holistic approach to health and well-being dubbed "Total Wellness: Body, Mind and Spirit" on Oct. 26 at the Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 892-6806, 810-7245 or 637-9653.

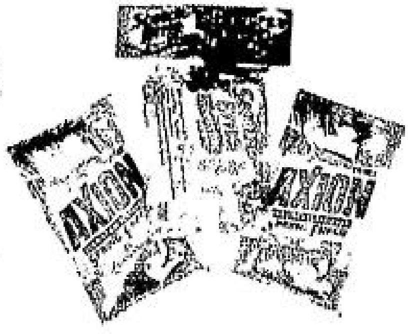
SYMPOSIUM. The Japan Foundation Manila Office with the Department of English and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, Silliman University will hold a symposium on film as literature. Dubbed "Film and Literature: A Symposium on the Teaching and Appreciation of Japanese and Filipino Cinematic Literatures," on Nov. 22-23 at the Multimedia Theater, Silliman University, Dumaguete City. Call 811-6155 to 58 or (035) 225-7392 and (035) 225-4776 (telefax).

CHORALE COMPETITION. The Star Group of Malls hosts the Star Christmas Carol, a chorale competition which runs until December at the Starmall on Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa and Metropolis Star in Alabang. The contest is open to all singing groups, with male or female members aged 14 years old and above. Eliminations will be held every Friday at Metropolis Star and every Sunday at Starmall. Call 716-1885 or 725-1496.

FORUM. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. (PLAI) will hold a forum on "The Librarian's Image and Client Perception" on Nov. 8, 8 a.m.-12 nn, at The National Library, T.M. Kalaw, Manila. Call 931-5966/5566, 526-8295, 525-0432 or 524-9740.

CONCERT POSTPONED. Viva Concerts today announced that the "Rock, Rap & Retro" concert featuring Aaron Carter has been postponed. The new schedule will be announced as soon as possible. All those who have already bought tickets to the show can call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

PROMO. Scoth-brite Scratch-Free Scrub sponge, a cleaning scrub for nonstick cookware, glassware, chinaware, silverware, and other delicate kitchen and dining utensils, makes cleaning easier with Scotch-Brite bundle packs. Buy one Scotch-Brite Scratch-Free Scrub sponge and get a 50-ml Axion dishwashing liquid, free. Grab one at selected supermarkets and retail outlets nationwide and enjoy scratch-free cleaning now. Available in green, citrus and pink daisy designs in the new easy-grip shape. Made by 3M Philippines.



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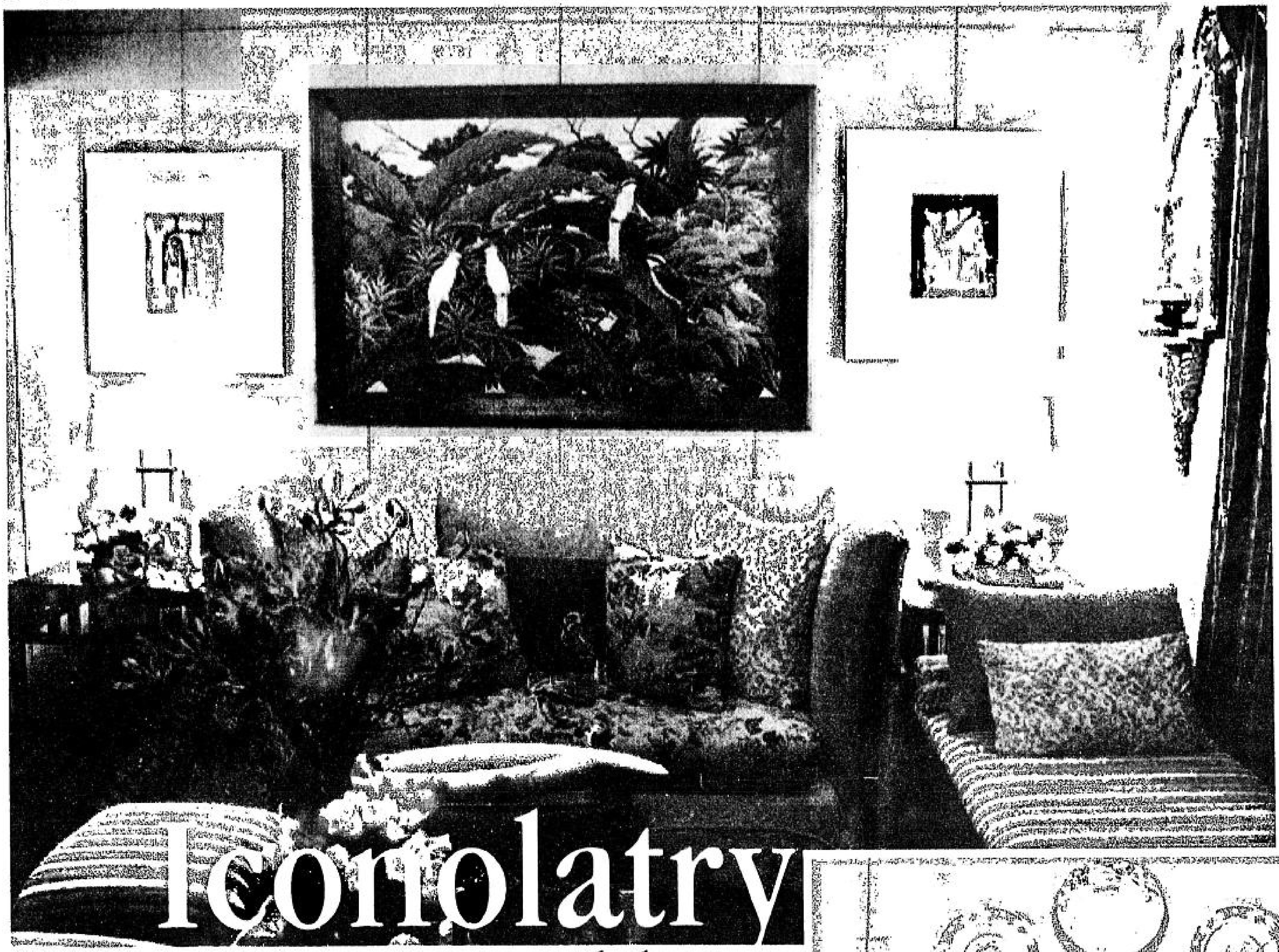


Iconolatry at one address

Worshipful of pleasant family memories, interior designer Mike Pizarro keeps cozy with religious images, flowers and old cabinets

THANKS to slip-on covers, the high-backed wing sofa and divan will turn into an all-white affair as the master of the house counts the days to Christmas.

From page E1

store unwanted items in his old bedroom. "It has turned into a virtual *bodega* containing various bits and pieces," he says of his former space.

Minimalism, he admits, has yet to influence his work. "I'm still in my exploratory stage. I see myself eventually going minimalist, but I still have to deal with the reality of storage."

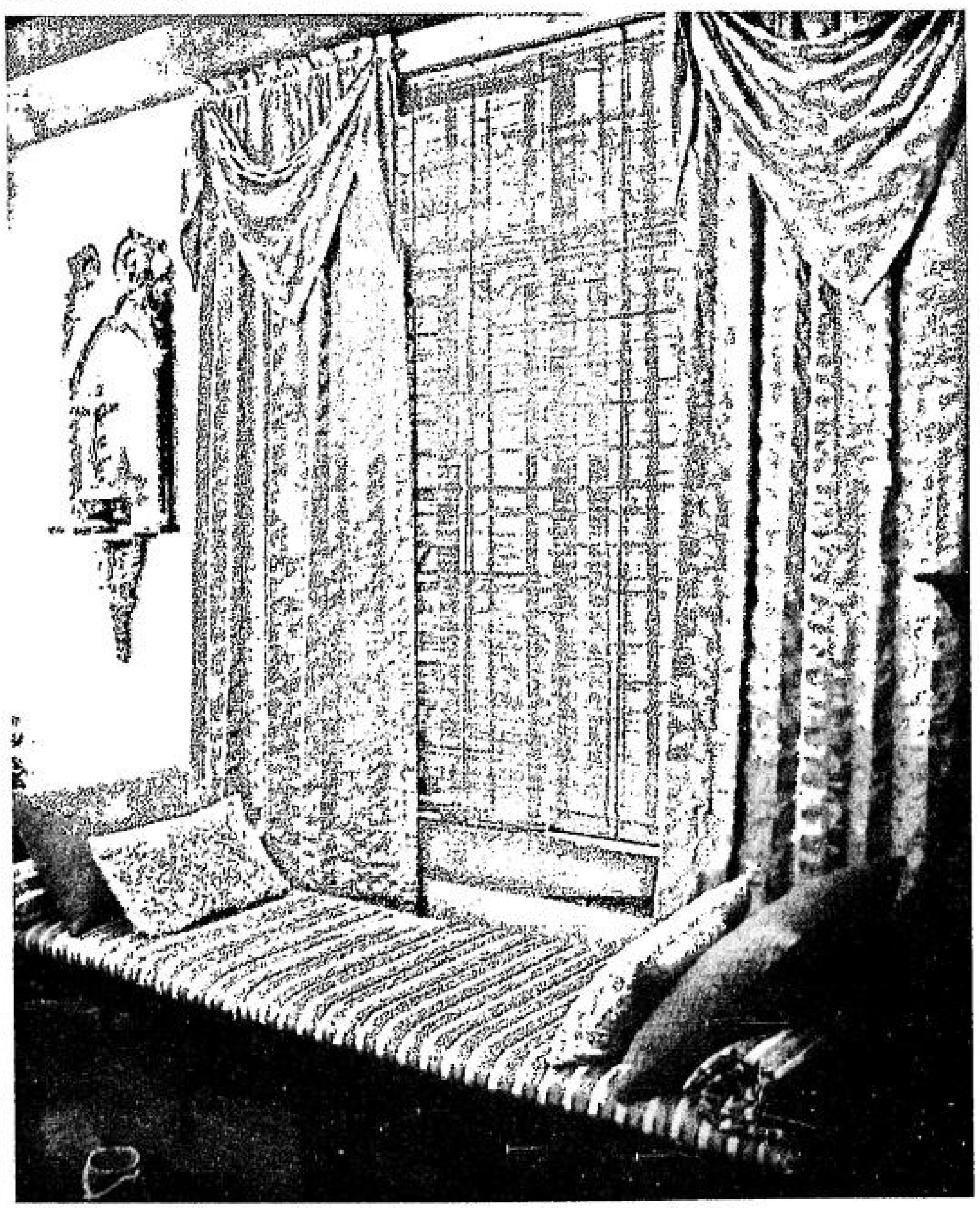
If there's one thing constant in Pizarro's home in the city, it's his use of bold color combination in every part of the house. The living room and dining area, for instance, glow with a joyful mélange of mango yellow, celadon and light green. The warm but unusual tandem of papaya and teal lulls him to sleep in his bedroom.

"Bright colors remind me of food," says Pizarro, whose best works include designing the interiors of such restaurants as Brothers Burgers, Don Henrico's, Ten Years After and Minggoy's. "I always associate food with comfort."

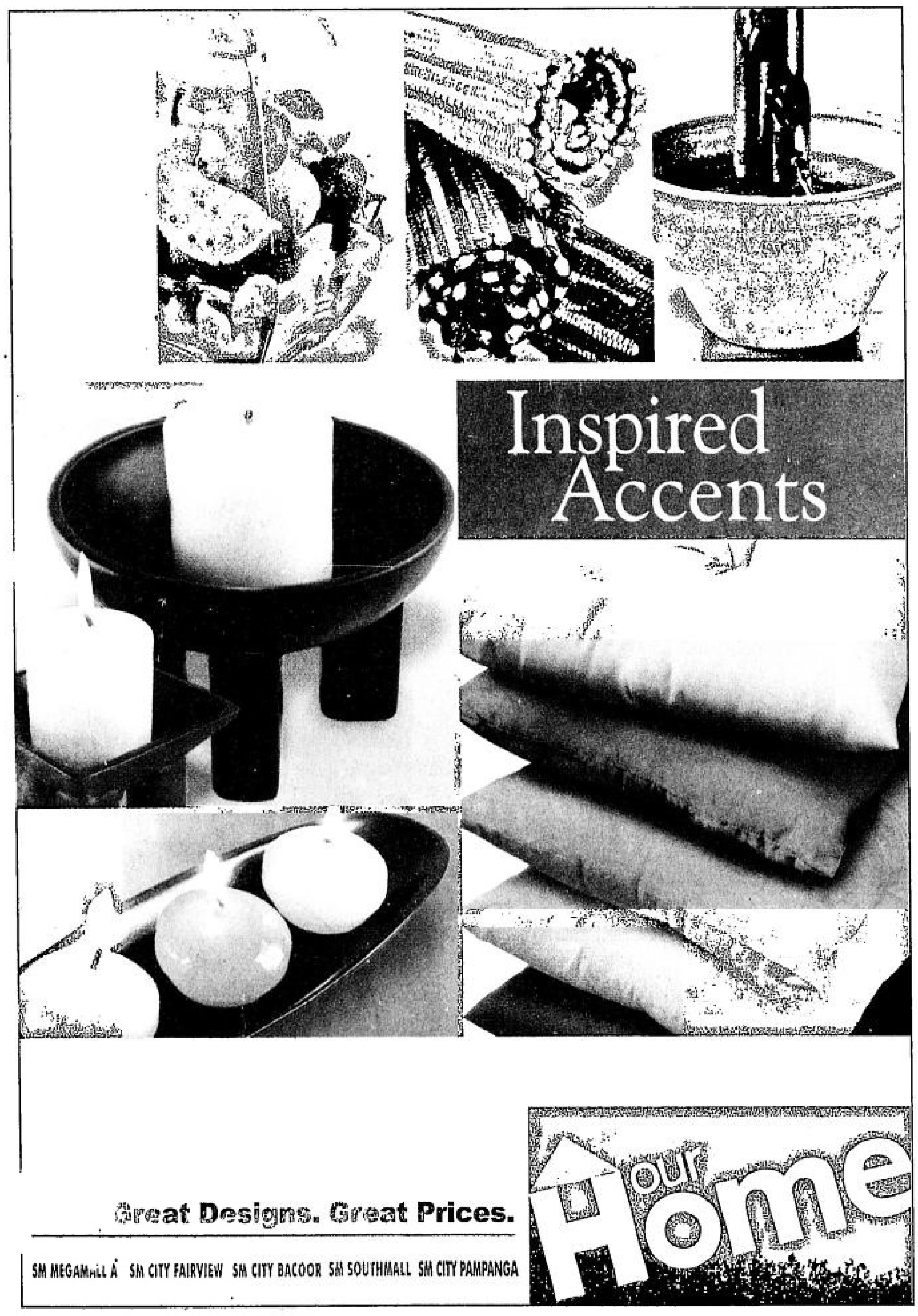
Holiday feasting, of course, is one of the most awaited events of the year for Pizarro. For all his talents, the man also claims to know his way around the kitchen. But holiday or not, his home will always be warm, ornate and teeming with flowers and religious images.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

AN OTHERWISE busy setup achieves a sense of perspective because of a dominant piece such as the sun-like mirror.



SWAGS also conform with Pizarro's mood and the change of season.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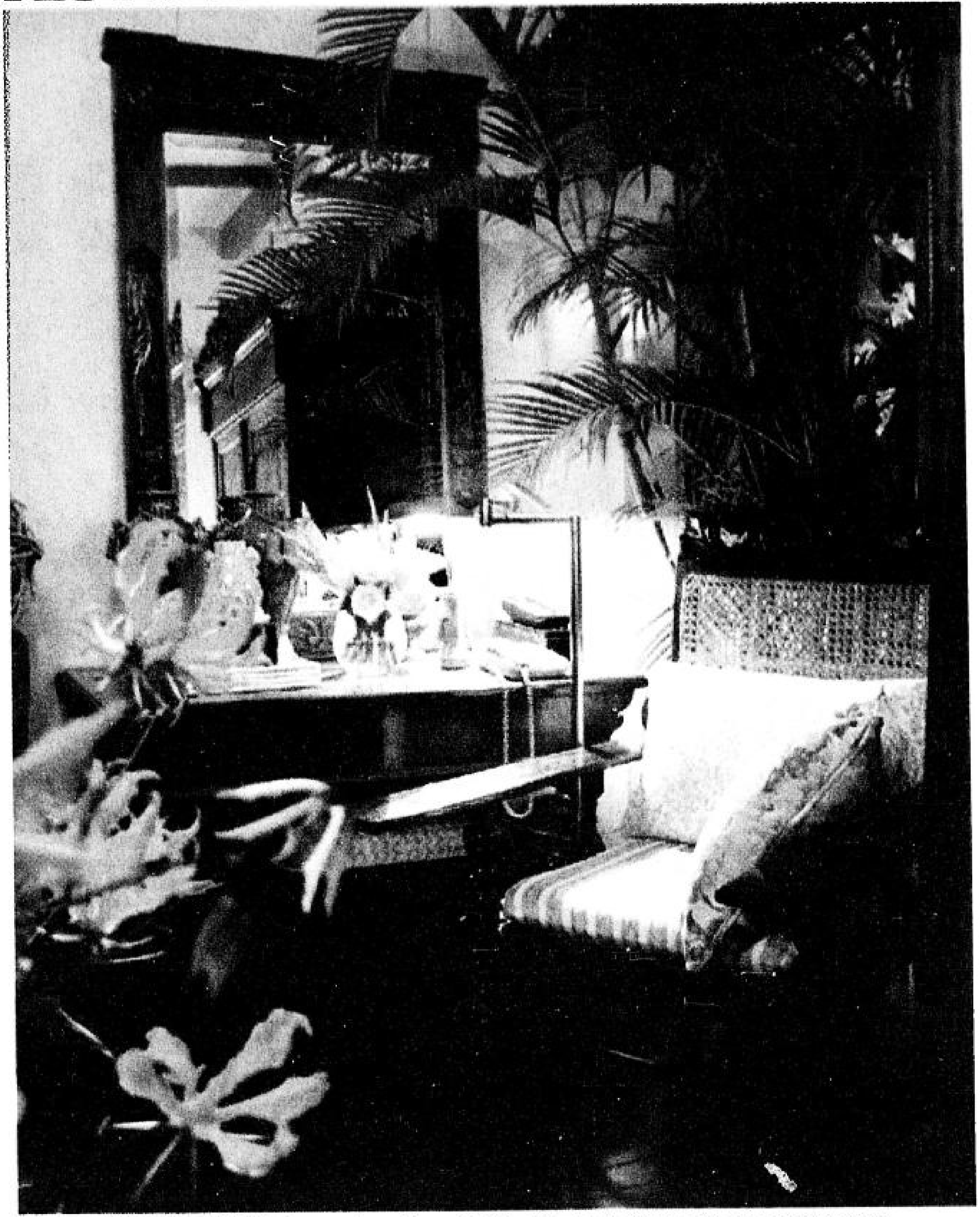
Our Home

HOLIDAY or no holiday, silverware, a rich tablecloth and fine pieces of china never fail to exude a luxurious feel

Iconolatry at one address

AN AMERICAN-MADE four-poster bed is one of Pizarro's prized possessions. He believes in investing in a good bed where one spends a good part of his time.



A CORNER redolent with Filipino touches with an Old World twist features a *butaca* and office desk.

Shopping for your kitchen and other home needs

THE KITCHEN is the place where family members gather to enjoy meals. Also, it is an area where close friends are entertained for an evening of good food and artful conversation. So, it's important to spruce up this section.

Robinsons Department Store's (RDS) Home Fair, which offers up to 50-percent discount on a wide selection of kitchen gadgets and tools as well as other home items, gives you the perfect opportunity to stock up on your kitchen needs and accessories.

As Chef Rico de Leon of the Center for Culinary Arts recommends, your kitchen tools and gadgets need not really be that expensive.

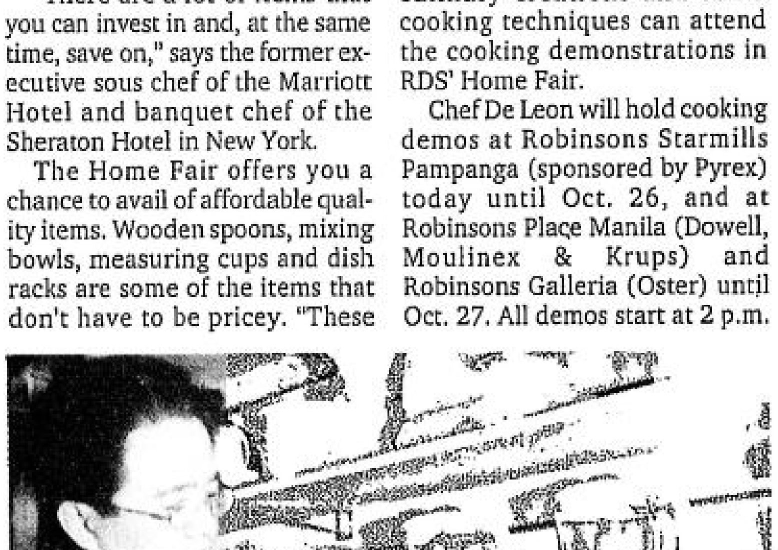
"There are a lot of items that you can invest in and, at the same time, save on," says the former executive sous chef of the Marriott Hotel and banquet chef of the Sheraton Hotel in New York.

The Home Fair offers you a chance to avail of affordable quality items. Wooden spoons, mixing bowls, measuring cups and dish racks are some of the items that don't have to be pricey. "These are usually tucked away and are not used in serving and entertaining."

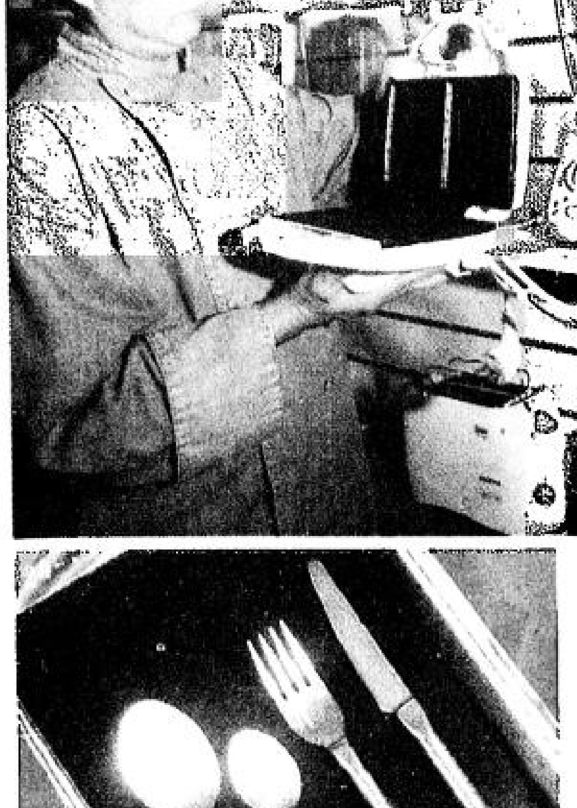
But quality should always be your main consideration when it comes to pots and pans (preferably stainless and non-stick with thick bottoms), knives, cutting boards, oven toasters, grillers and other equipment that you will need for the long term. RDS' Home Fair offers a wide selection of these items as well as other home needs like bed and bath products, dinner tables, sofas, home equipment and accessories, houseware, home furnishings, gifts and novelties, furniture and crafts.

Those who want to learn new culinary creations and other cooking techniques can attend the cooking demonstrations in RDS' Home Fair.

Chef De Leon will hold cooking demos at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga (sponsored by Pyrex) today until Oct. 26, and at Robinsons Place Manila (Dowell, Moulinex & Krups) and Robinsons Galleria (Oster) until Oct. 27. All demos start at 2 p.m.



MODERN Kitchen equipment like sandwich makers are good items to invest in, says Chef Rico de Leon



SUNEX cutlery set from RDS' Home Fair

Clara Olé

Put the "Olé!" in your dishes!

Entice him with your new

Clara Olé Marinara

Porklain Parmigiana

INGREDIENTS:

250 g porkloin, sliced to 60 g then flattened
1/4 cup milk
1 pc egg
3/4 cup breadcrumbs from toasted old bread
100 g Quickmelt cheese, sliced
*1 pouch 250 g **Clara Olé Marinara Classic Pasta Sauce***
2 tbsp. McCormick herbs (oregano or basil)
salt, pepper
butter or cooking oil for pan frying

Procedure:

Pound each 60 g slice of porkloin with a mallet or the side of a knife until flattened to 1/8" thick. Marinate in milk and black pepper overnight or at least one hour. Mix breadcrumbs, herbs, salt, and pepper in a plate. In a bowl, beat eggs lightly. Dip each cutlet in egg, then in breadcrumb mixture; repeat to coat twice.

In a large frying pan, over medium-high heat, melt butter then fry cutlets until browned on both sides. Arrange pork slices around the frying pan, spooning **Clara Olé Marinara Classic Pasta Sauce** evenly over each cutlet before topping with cheese slices. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook until cheese is melted. Serve with rice or your favorite pasta. SERVES 4.

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Distressed coastal areas remain in need of assistance

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

FOR THE EIGHT consecutive year, the Makati Garden Club (MGC) and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) are holding their fund-raising event called "Festival of Trees" to support areas in the country in need of environmental assistance. This is a continuing commitment of both organizations, which came together back in the mid-'90s for just that purpose. The PBSP identifies target areas, while the MGC raises the funds to undertake projects. The team-up is looked upon with favor by environmentalists and concerned citizens because environmental projects rarely achieve any degree of success without the cooperation of different sectors of society. In the "Festival of Trees," a garden club that originated from the members' love of plants, has joined up with a group of about 50 corporations organized to help those in need. The combination of nature lovers and business philanthropists has been dynamic, and so the partnership has continued to organize the pre-Christmas event these past eight years.

Two areas continue to be beneficiaries of the fundraiser on Nov. 14 at the Manila Polo Club: Olango Island in Cebu and Maqueda Bay in Samar. Olango Island off Mactan was made a beneficiary last year when it was noted that migratory birds made it their sanctuary as they escaped the cold in nearby Asian countries. A 920-ha Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary was set up, which included mangroves and coastal areas. To enhance the sanctuary, 3 ha of the mangrove site have been reforested, and a solar station and communication facility were put up. While townsfolk continue to receive livelihood and environmental training, the need to preserve the island's marine life persists, so aid must continue.

The other beneficiary, Maqueda Bay in Samar, has been a target area for the past seven years. It is a project MGC and PBSP feel they must continue since they see that abandoning it now would make all their past efforts go to waste.

From the outset, the area needed to be saved from environmentally harmful practices that had gone on for years, like dynamite, cyanide and "Danish seine" fishing. Mangroves were indiscriminately cut for firewood and building material, and so siltation and organic pollution set in. Because of these, alternative livelihood training was introduced. An Upland Technology Farm was set up as testing center for high-value crops and cut flowers. As a result, there is now, says Maria Luisa Perez Rubio, president of both MGC and PBSP, a cut flower industry in the area.

MGC and PBSP believe that Maqueda Bay can be saved, so they have continued to assist and fund projects there. What makes them optimistic is that the people are now cooperating. The fisher folk, who once violated environmental, particularly fishing, laws, are the ones now guarding the bay and coastal areas. Complete success here is just a few steps away, the organizations say, so they are taking that extra mile to make achieve it.

The fund-raising event on Nov. 14 this year, a dinner-auction affair, hopes to raise P8 million (P1 million for each year of the project's existence?). There will be eight major trees to be auctioned off, each one donated by different groups, like the golf-inspired "Forel Tree" donated by the Manila Golf & Country Club, the Country Club and the Orchard Golf & Country Club; the "Travel & Leisure Tree" from three of the country's biggest hotels; the "Rustan's Tree" that will be filled with cosmetics; the "Ring Me Tree" decorated with cell phones from Smart/PLDT; "Beauty & Wellness Tree" from Farm San Benito; and "Money Tree" from Citibank.

The piece de resistance of the public auction is a painting by Anita Magsaysay-Ho, whose donation of her priceless artwork is now almost a tradition in itself since she has been doing this since year one of the festival. Other artists such as Manuel Baldemor, Claude Tayag, Ofie Tequi, Sylvia Amorsolo, as well as known designers and garden enthusiasts like Roland Laurena, Serapion Metilla, Rudy Fuentes and Ben Farrales, and MGC members themselves, have also donated trees and objets d'art.

Replies to e-mail writers

To Yolly Samson of Annex 1618: There is a request for more information on your Linis Ganda volunteer program from a member of the Gateway Business Center who wants to include it in its business portal. Click in at laurenmedrano@gatewayphil.com.

To Gregory Albert Galicinao of the Philippine Society for Youth Science Clubs, please furnish us with other telephone or cell phone numbers or address, as the ones you mentioned in your e-mail seem to belong now to others. Some people are interested in joining your science clubbing movement.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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CREDIT CARD NO. ____ 3 Digits at the Back of Card ____
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To be filled up by Globe Telecom Representative:
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Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos.1671, 1687,3864,3958,3692 Series of 2002.

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

BIRTHDAY GIRL
StephB.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The oasis and desert that is Clark

'With bombings and crises can come golden opportunities, as any businessman knows.' What scares away investors is something else

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

TIME was if you gave me a word-association test and said, "Clark" (post-US bases), I'd say in a split second, "Bath tissues, towels." Clark was shopping, to me, specifically, bed-and-bath hoarding or, for those astute enough, which I wasn't, appliance-shopping.

Today, however, Clark has lost its allure to women shoppers (does shopping have another gender?) like me to whom weekend thawing wouldn't be complete without seeing a display window. There's not much else to hoard in Clark, not even the slash-priced shirts and pants the selection of which has become quite monotonous (shopping is music to a woman's ear, you know).

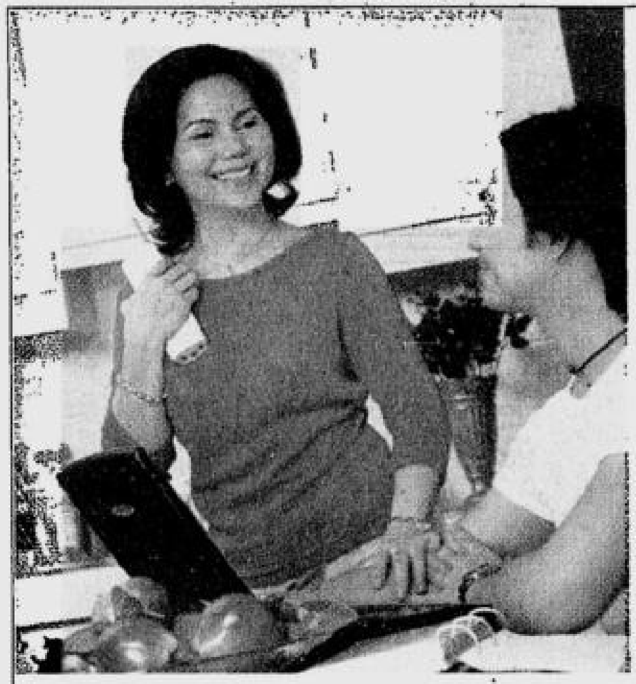
These days the few times we drive to Clark with my magazine staff it is for wine and fine dining or a style shoot, but that is getting ahead of a story relevant to these days of bombings and investors' fears.

The story is, barely a month ago, my staff wanted to jolt my memory that I was turning yet another year older so they decided to treat me (more themselves really) to dinner in Clark because, first, it had the most accessible out-of-town fine-dining place; second, because they wanted a change from our usual night haunts at Rockwell, Greenbelt or The Podium; third, because, couch potatoes and nominal dieters that they are, they wanted to convince me that weekend pigging-out was better for my health than weekend tennis.

In truth, they just wanted our regular

THE OASIS/ p.F2

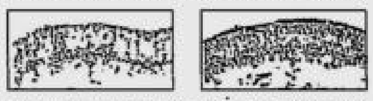
Reggae to the Rhythm at The Megastrip
Oct 25 8:30pm
Reggae Mistress
SM MEGAMALL
Great weekend listening to the island beat!


Real People. True Stories.

"My job and family keep me 'young on the inside' – on the outside, it's definitely Imedeen! It's not just for your face -- over-all conditioning talaga!"

Zina Rosales,
events planner, mother of two teenagers,
'proud to be vain'

How can you best enjoy a life packed with blessings? For Zina Rosales, it's by staying vibrant and young in spirit – with skin to match. That's where Imedeen comes in. "Imedeen enhances my skin all over, not just on my face... I started to see aging signs on my neck, but with Imedeen it's now supple and even-toned." Unlike creams and lotions, Imedeen works from inside to help strengthen the inner layers of the skin where aging starts. That's why Zina, a self-described 'beauty cynic', looks young and feels confident. As she puts it, "No one notices the age difference when I'm with my young friends!" Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.



Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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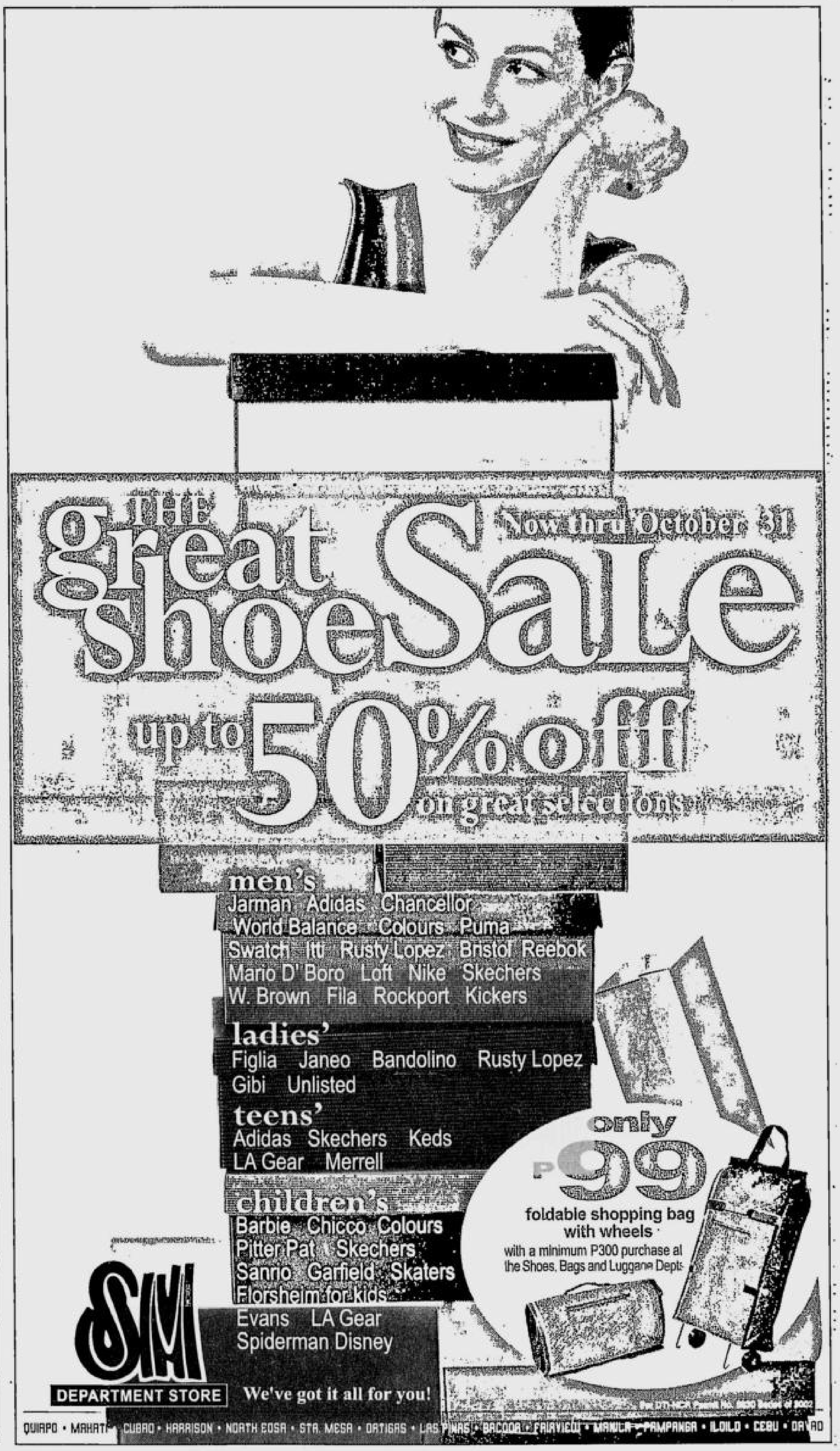
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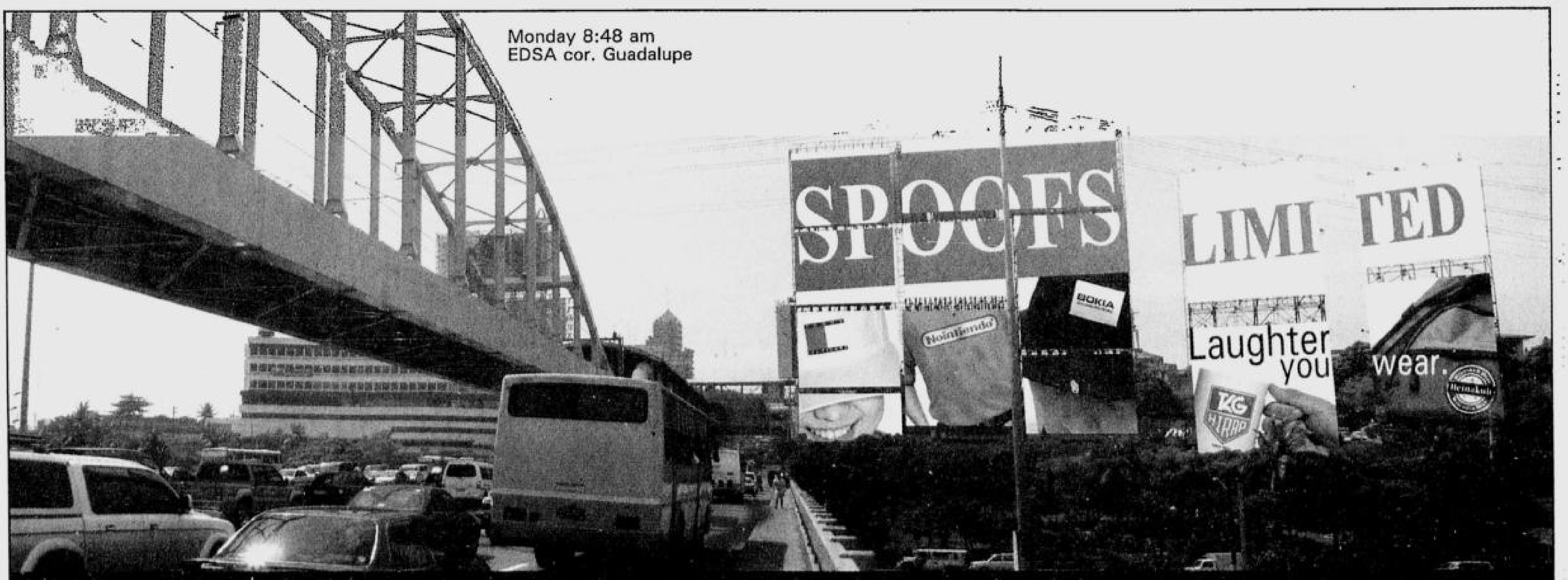

Monday 8:48 am
EDSA cor. Guadalupe

SPOOFS LTD. Metro Manila Branches: Alabang Town Center Designer Depot, Quirino Ave. Glorietta II Festival Mall Sta. Lucia East Shangri-La Mall SM Centerpoint SM Fairview SM Manila SM Megamall SM North Edsa Annex SM North Edsa Kiosk SM Southmall SM Sucat Provincial Branches: Gaisano, Cagayan de Oro Landco Pacific Mall, Legaspi City Robinsons Bacolod Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga SM Bacoor SM Cebu SM Davao SM Iloilo SM Pampanga

The oasis and desert that is Clark

From page F1

angst-trading over alcohol and food.

To kill time we decided to drive around first. That was the first time in eons that I drove beyond the stores, into the heart of Clark. To me, the sight was enough to cause the angst.

We swung by the monolith of an Expo, which I found to be more visually unappealing than its detractors said. People say it's a white elephant; I disagree—it's an elephant in tacky colors. If ever there was any activity going on, it was surely not of a scale commensurate to the Expo's size, not to mention the financial heft with which it was built. A waste.

A drive further inland showed a Clark that wasn't only laid-back; it was practically desolate. Grass and wild foliage have overrun what used to be homes of former military personnel. These structures are now nothing more than rotting shells not so different from CNN images of places ravaged by strife. A huge billboard of a "golf course" made an ironic sight—it was faded and beyond it was no sleek golf course but more wilderness.

For a zone with billions of investments, the place was, interestingly, quiet, not comforting quiet, but dead quiet. Like an inertia-induced silence.

We're not the market of Fontana so we didn't go there again. We've always loved Mimosa, the Holiday Inn and villas but those old haunts of ours seemed like, well, old. The only novelty was the Wine Club, a new structure that is getting known for its legendary wine collection.

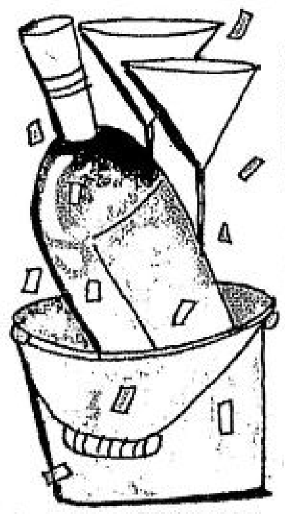

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

A veteran chain-restaurateur told me over the weekend that his establishments in the Makati mall saw a 30-percent dip in revenue last weekend—an unheard-of thing on a mall-wide-sales weekend. Surely this was due to the bombings and bomb scare. The country couldn't possibly fall any further, I said. The guy, usually a gung-ho Filipino, shook his head, "Watch it. We will yet hit rock-bottom. First, because the dollar is already P53 to one. Second, the deficit is so huge. Third, with the war threat in the Middle East, there's uncertainty where our dollar-earning overseas workers are concerned. Fourth, people feel that no matter who gets to sit up there, it's the same banana, with the same old political debts."

Hearing that, I remembered the Clark we just saw, supposedly catch basin of investments. How much more beating could our economic zones take?

Curiously, an investor said it's not really only the bombings that could scare the likes of him away: "With bombings and crises can come golden opportunities, as any businessman knows."

What drove them away from the country, he said, wasn't only the corruption (any country has that, and any businessman has provisions for that), but also having to be dragged down by red tape or roadblocks, and the gray areas that mess up their timetable.

He said, "Investors are funny creatures that can only survive in motion. Once stopped dead in their tracks, they stop functioning. It's the time factor, not risk and reward, that places the Philippines at the bottom of foreign investors' priority lists."

Confronted with proposals, he said, managers "promised to come back with answers the next month. Investors are notoriously one-track-minded in their approach to processing a business opportunity. They are narrowly focused on pros and cons in a time/money matrix. Nothing else interests them."

In short, Filipinos are always late, when time is of the essence to businessmen.

While businessmen go for a level playing field, they discover that the rules are gray. "Very soon," the investor said, "an investor will find that his map is useless and that there is not a single tour guide out there worth listening to, let alone trust."

Hearing an investor describe our quaint business-unfriendly systems and, as you realize that the bombings or terrorist threat could worsen, you no longer find the text jokes on bombings (which are streaming in again) funny anymore, unlike in the Erap days. We're suffering from burnout where our self-deprecating humor is concerned.

We weren't burnt out, however, that Clark weekend. In fact, our spirits got a lift as we drove into Clearwater Country Club. The INQUIRER ed in chief wasn't exaggerating (she never does, as you know) when she described Clearwater as the "oasis in a desert" that was Clark.

The sight of gracefully slanting trees on the vast green and of the fluid pattern that is the manmade lake is enough to unclog our crowded minds. The images of lean wooden benches under old acacias make for a pastoral scene. It yields a serenity you know is a luxury these days.

The Vin Café stands majestic—the Club's crowning glory, for now. It's a concrete two-story box with panoramic glass wrapped around its façade—a minimalist manmade foil to the lush nature around it. At night when this box is lit from the inside, it looks like a glowing blob afloat in midair.

Given its cuisine and selection of vintage wines, no wonder this is now the "in" place north of Metro Manila. It was there where **Kiko Pangilinan** and **Sharon Cuneta** celebrated with a dinner Kiko's birthday recently.

On the garden are islands of tables, with a stream of water snaking around them, its gurgling sound making its presence felt. Yet the natural setting can go high-tech—each island is equipped with connections for CD (you can have your own music in your table) and laptop.

My staff wouldn't settle for anything less than the rooftop of Vin Café, where the overhanging branches of the tree shield you, though not enough to shut out the sky. They asked for a "birth-year" wine—the vogue in gift-giving these days where the celebrator's birth year is the same as the vintage. My staff ordered a Sauterne (1959, ha! Either they're playing it safe or just licking my behind), which was meant that to cap the evening.

Before the wine, came, in elegant intervals, the dishes prepared by **Chris Locher**, the Swiss chef of the nearby Yats International Wine Club (which owns Vin Café). Chris, who's as driven as they come, runs a kitchen that must be among the rare beehives in Clark. For appetizer he had pan-roasted foie de canard with confit of white grapes. We've always loved Chris' way with duck, and this one was just right as a palate wake-upper. Chris is the type of artist-chef who will not feel peace and bliss until he sees the expression on your face as you taste (my staff gobbles up) his creation. We all gave it to him. Gleaming, he exited to prepare his next number as the staff began our trademark conversation—part-verbal massacre, part-camaraderie.

Just snippets of it here:

"What makes him different from the others is he's very intelligent, and so on his toes, yet he's never rough," said Staffer #2. "He actually tiptoes around you and I love that. He is so faithful."

Staffer #2 was explaining why her Belgian Malinois is better than a labrador. Nothing could get better than that, that evening, where romance involving men was concerned.

We allowed her more avowals of canine devotion as Chris presented the cream of potato and fennel. We gave Chris another glance of affirmation, as Staffer #1 launched on his affirmation of his own beliefs. "I can take unfaithful," he said, "what matters is the moment. Live for it. Be a slut, be pure. Whatever." It must be the Chablis hitting him—forthright, strong, almost reckless.

Whatever—why is that the so-"in" word these days, I asked them. Didn't get an immediate reply because Chris' main number came in—oven-roasted squab with fresh summer truffle and port wine reduction. This "mainer" had so many layers to it—sweet, salty, light, heavy—that you could only relish it, even without absolute understanding of it. Like today's mantra—whatever. A bed of options and possibilities.

Before we could have our dessert of nutmeg- and thyme-enhanced apple cake with cinnamon ice cream and fresh vanilla sauce, we opened the Sauterne—a sweet and elegant way to cap our meal.

We went down the winding staircase and strolled along the vast open space that would soon be a tennis court. I was promised it'd be the first tennis court of its kind in the country—made of high-grade grass (tiff eagle, the kind used in a golf course), which I was allowed to feel. I took off my shoe and rubbed the grass with my bare foot; it felt like soft carpet. I knew that that feel would be deceiving come game time. In December, tennis junkies should have reason to drive north.

Out here and even where we dined, the sound of the cicadas could drown your words and inner noise—which should be the case. The darkness around, broken by a few blots of light in select trees, made you feel as if you alone existed under the sky. Not even a shooting star could intrude into your space.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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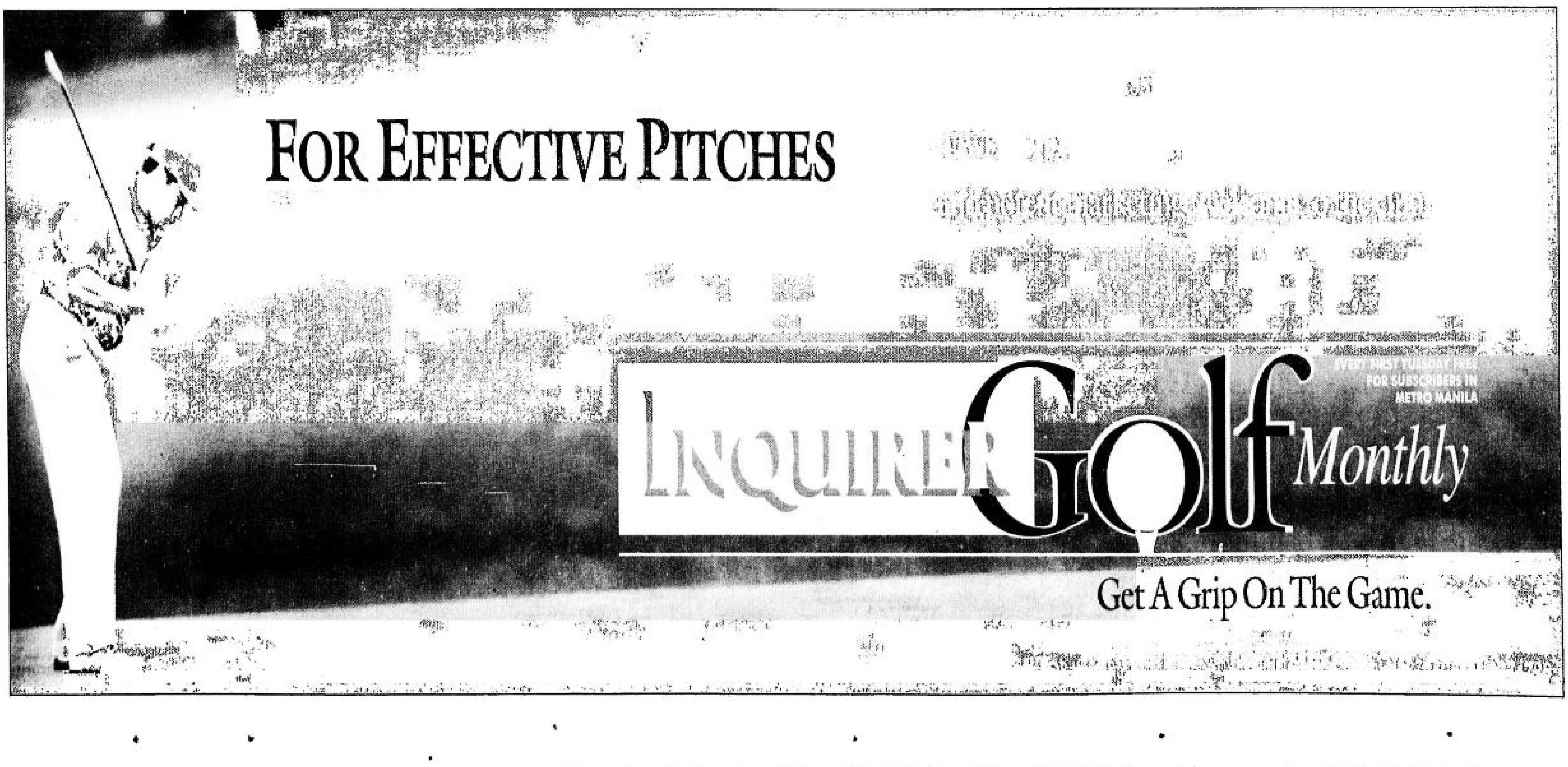
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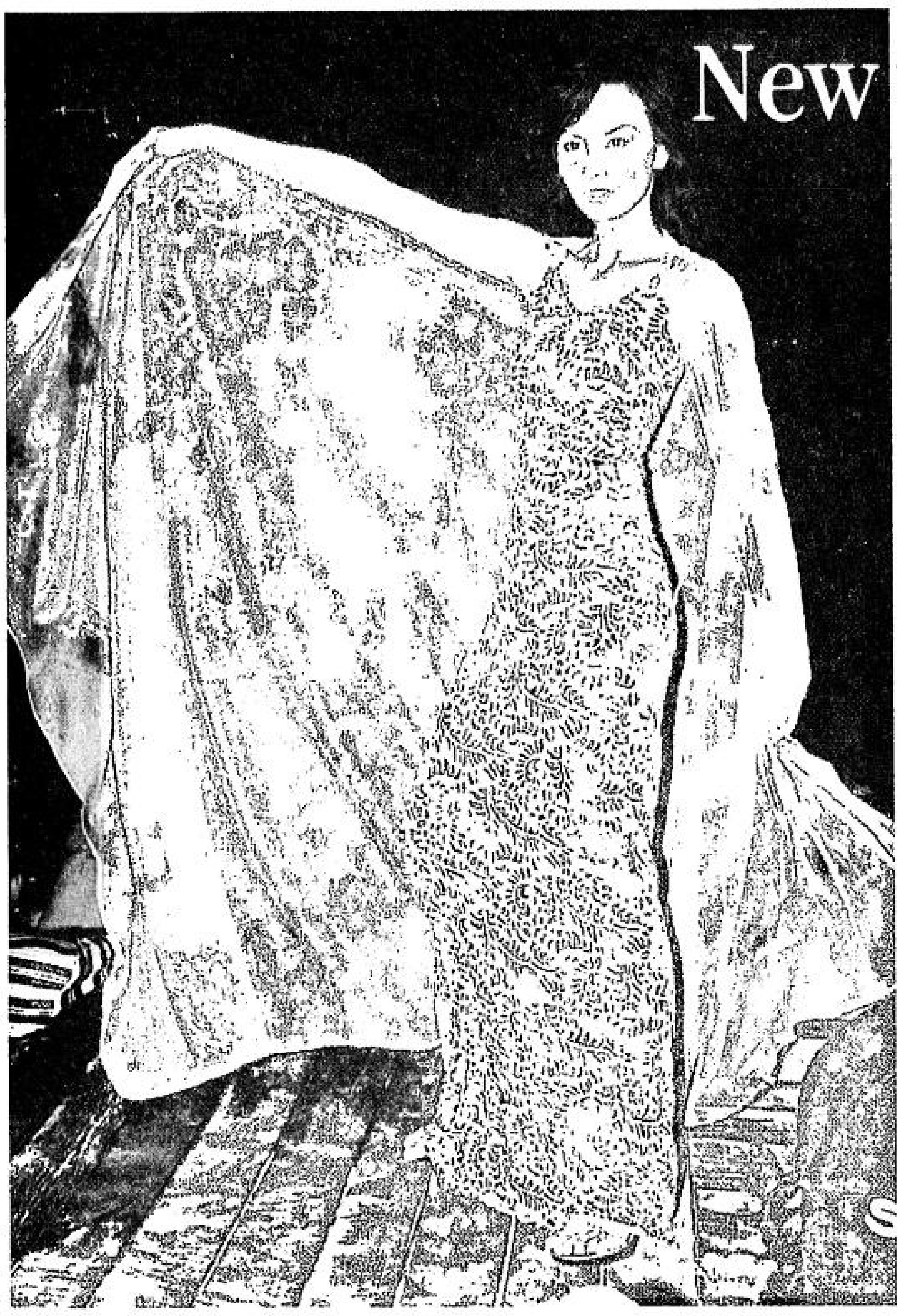
New wave of fashion

From page F4

fashion from all kinds of genres and fabrics.

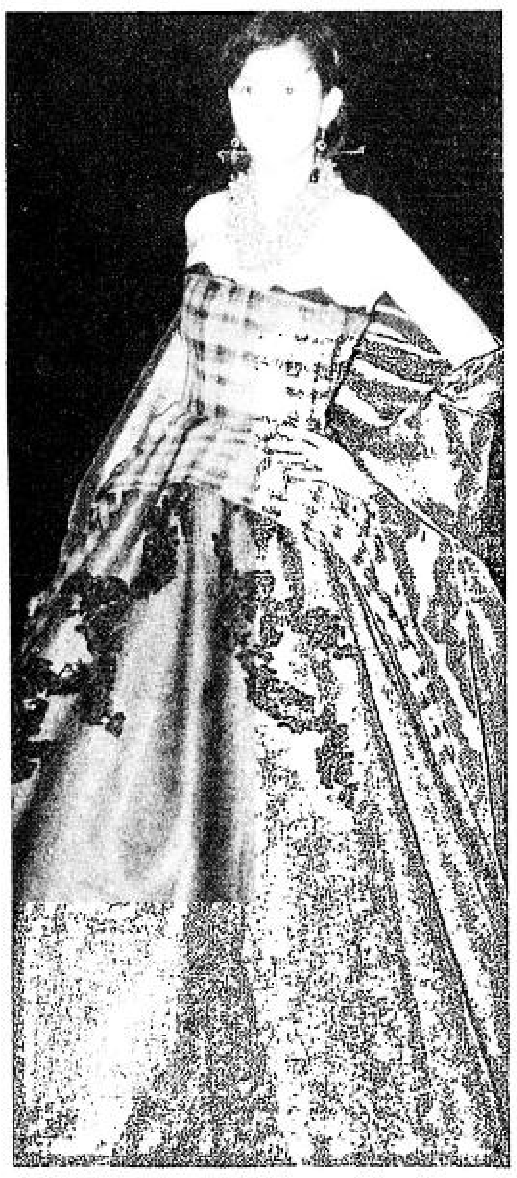
Surigao Gov. Lyndon Barbers and his wife Trisha praised the show. "We are very happy to have been a part of this fashion event as a way of giving back to the people," said Barbers.

The show of some 70 couture gowns and chic beachwear used the dramatic backdrop of the sea and was the first of its kind in the region. Sharing the credits with Peralta were Ariel Lozada, who directed the show, and Jingky Ilusorio and Danny Catalbas, who did the hair and makeup. The stylists included Ramil Noveda, Vittorio Barba, Tonichi Nocum and Catta Figuerroa.

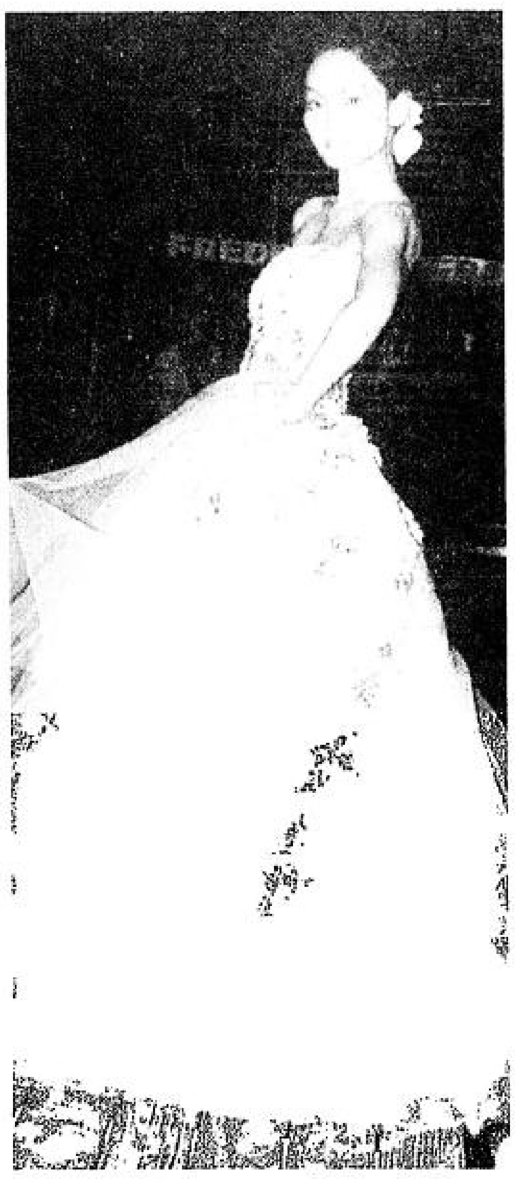


PAISLEY print stretch jersey gown

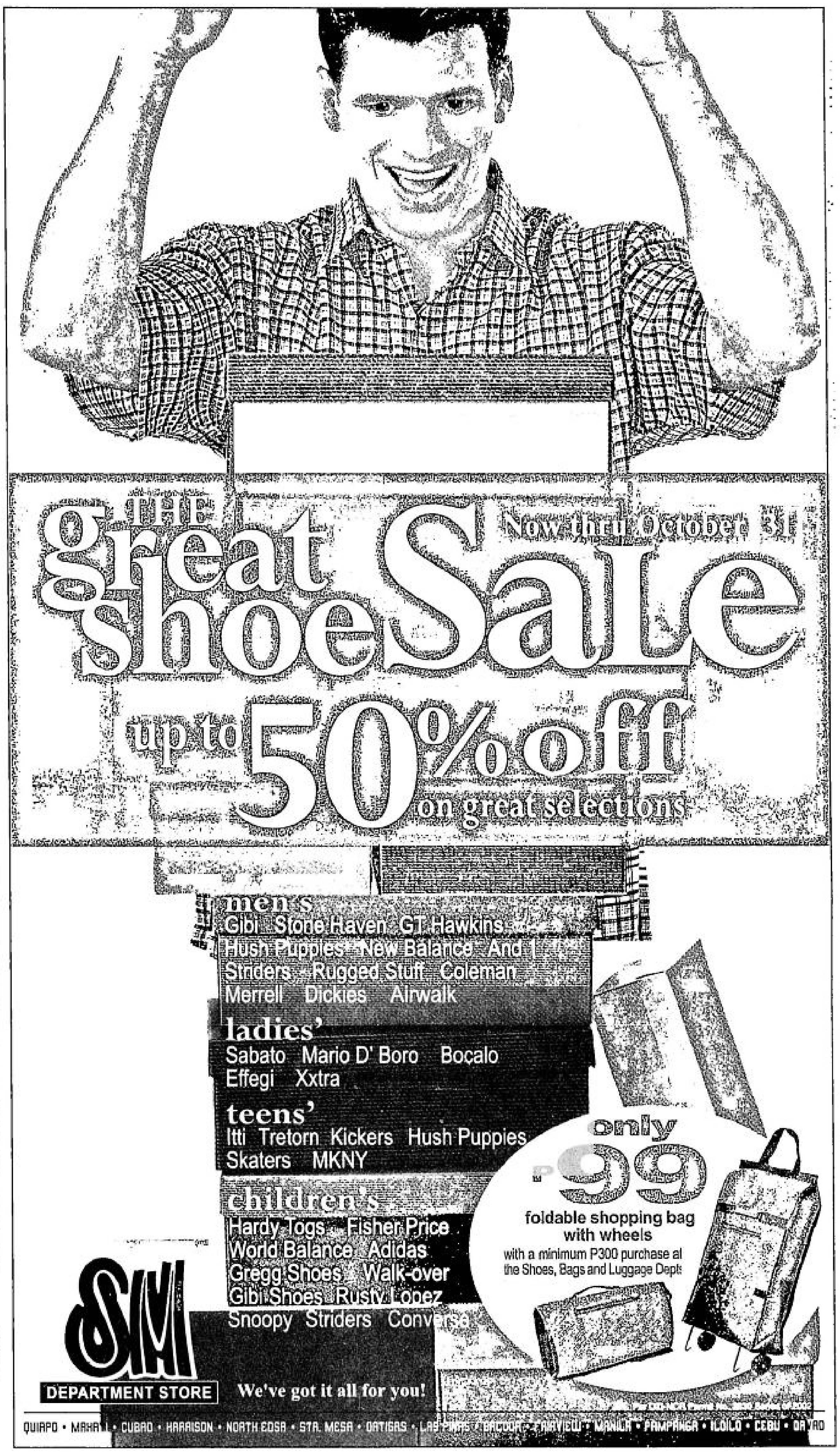
FREDERICK Peralta



CHECKED corset with layered bouffant skirt



BOUFFANT tulle gown with beaded lace accents



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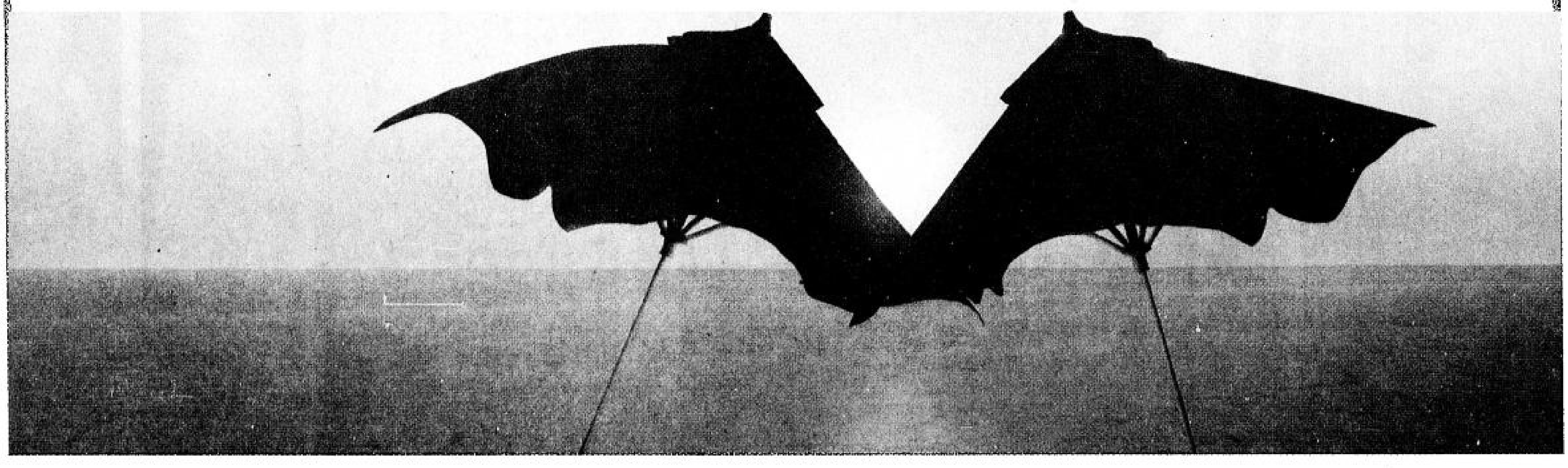

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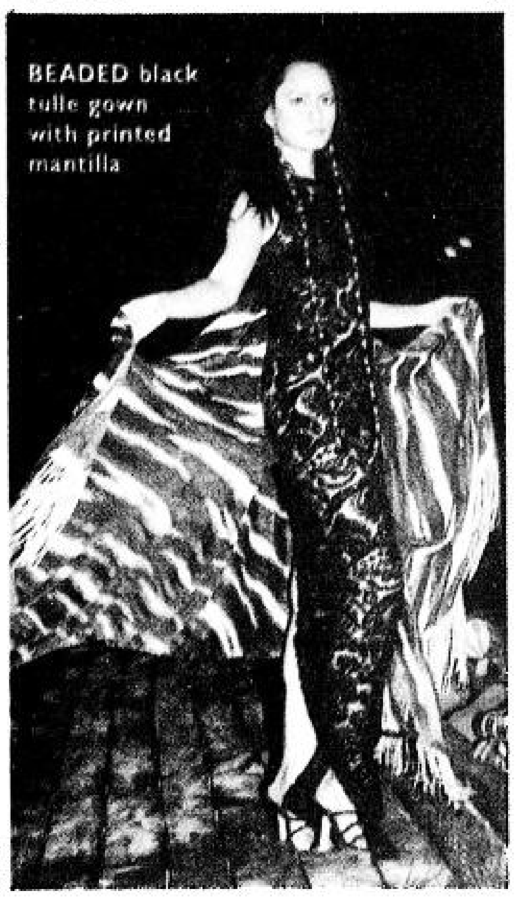
New wave of fashion



BEADED black tulle gown with printed mantilla

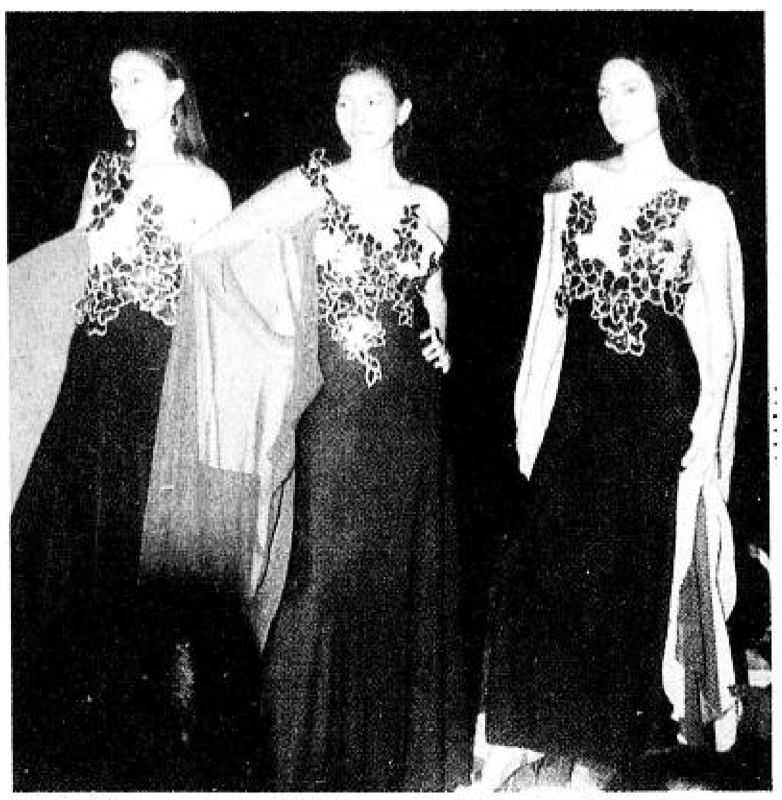
Amid the sand, sun and surf of Siargao, Frederick Peralta mounts a fashion spree

FREDERICK Peralta broke convention when he made his models do their catwalk in the middle of the ocean during a fashion exclusive in Surigao. The show, dubbed "Siargao," was the highlight of the seventh International Surfing Competition, graced by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

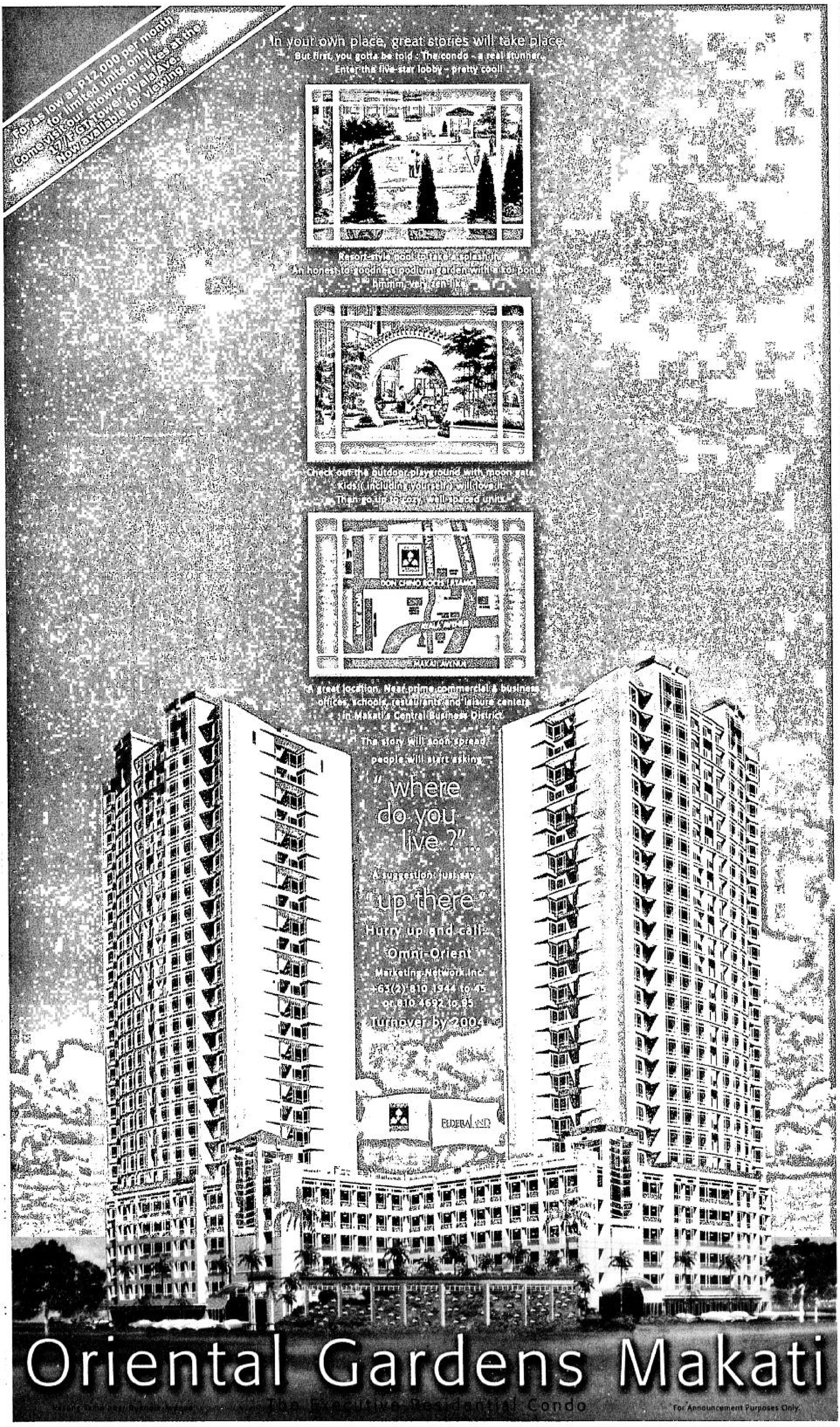
The international event showcased surfing teams from the US, Japan, South Africa, Australia and the Philippines, among others. As a laidback highlight, Peralta showcased

NEW/ p.F3

PRINTED kaftan



BLACK jersey skirts with fully sequined floral appliqués on skintone bodices



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